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February 1994

SAO PAULO DO IT AGAIN

Report from the World Club Cup

EXCLUSIVE:

DAVID PLATT

our man in Italy

HAVELANGE CRISIS -

special report from the World Cup draw

World Soccer review of

1993

Latest international results, tables and line-ups

Brian Glanville's tribute to

DANNY BLANCHFLOWER

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Alen BOKSIC

Lazio's new import has made a big impact since his move from Marseille to Rome.

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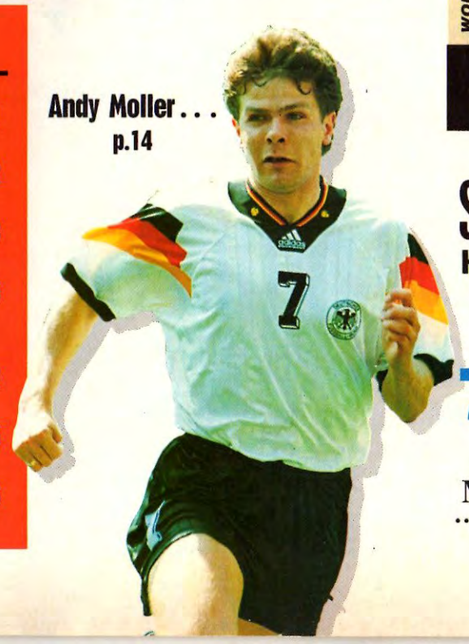

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US expects

INTERVIEW

WORLD CUP '94 COULD PROVE TO BE A WATERSHED FOR THE AMERICAN GAME. ***MARK IRWIN*** TALKS TO COVENTRY CITY STRIKER **ROY WEGERLE** ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE TASK FACING HIS COUNTRYMEN AS THEY ATTEMPT TO MATCH THE WORLD'S FINEST AND SATISFY A DEMANDING PUBLIC

Nothing but the best is good enough for Americans

ROY WEGERLE knows exactly what is expected of the United States team at US '94. Whether they will be able to fulfil those expectations is another matter.

The Coventry City striker is under no illusions about the size of the task of converting the North American public to soccer.

For in spite of encouraging ticket sales and a growing curiosity to see the sport so cherished by the rest of the world, the decision to hand the World Cup to the US will only be considered a worthwhile venture if the host nation can achieve a considerable degree of success.

At the very least that means qualifying from a first round group which also includes Romania, Colombia and Switzerland. It's not an impossible task, but it could have been easier.

In fact many cynics were convinced that the US would be handed a free ride to the second round following the 11th-hour decision to base the six groups on geographical considerations rather than the traditional method of previous World Cup form.

Instead, it is conceivable that Bora Milutinovic's young team could even finish bottom of Group A, and, according to Wegerle, that would be the end of football in the US.

"For the sake of the future of the game in the US, it is absolutely vital that we reach the second phase," says Wegerle.

"It will be a tragedy if we don't qualify because the people will turn their back on the game for good. Like it nor not, the people of America only want winners. They are not interested in second best. It is part of their national psyche.

"The US public is very uneducated as far as soccer goes. They expect any team wearing the US colours to win every time they play. At the last Olympics they expected the US basketball team to go out and wipe the floor with every team they played and that's exactly what happened. But the big problem is that they now expect their soccer team to do the same.

"They do not understand the power structure of world soccer. They don't appreciate the difference, for instance, between Italy and Greece, and they think a nation as small as Holland should prove no problem for the US.

"Unfortunately, it doesn't work like that. Yet if we don't deliver the right results it will be very difficult to get the game going professionally over there."

The United States Soccer Federation have presented plans to FIFA for yet another attempt at a national professional league to be launched in 1995, but those plans rely on a World Cup which succeeds

'For the sake of the future of the game in the US, it is absolutely vital that we reach the second

both in terms of finance and in creating a widespread enthusiasm for the game.

Wegerle defends FIFA's decision to alter the criteria for last December's Las Vegas draw and is realistic enough to accept that financial requirements have to be taken into consideration.

"There was always going to be some sort of arrangement between FIFA and the US Federation because the game isn't as popular in the States as it is in the rest of the world and it made sense to take local support into consideration," he continues.

"They had to be certain that the games are well supported and the only way of doing that was by making sure that certain countries were based in cities where they would enjoy a large ethnic support.

"Football is an entertainment and, like any other business in the world, it has to make money to survive and thrive.

"In any case, I feel that FIFA always tries to help the home nation and make things a little bit easier for them. Spain, Mexico and Italy have all had a relatively easy ride in the last three finals and when you look at the teams in this year's tournament I don't think you could say we have been placed in an easy group.

"Colombia, for instance, could be one of the surprises of the tournament. They beat Argentina 5-0 in the qualifiers and are one of the most skilful teams in the world. Romania showed what great touch players they have when they beat Wales to qualify while Switzerland, too, are a rapidly improving side.

"It is not going to be easy for us, but I feel we have half a chance. If we can manage a similar level of performance as we achieved when we beat England 2-0 last summer then we will be confident of reaching the second round.

And once you reach the knock-out stage of any competition it becomes something of a lottery."

Wegerle knows heat and humidity will play a major part in the way the games are played and fears that could also prove a turn-off for the public.

"It doesn't matter whether you're playing in Los Angeles or New Jersey, in July it's going to be 100 degrees out there. In terms of climate, this World Cup will be very similar to the 1982 tournament in Spain.

"You're not going to be able to tear about the place like you do in British football. The games are going to be played at a walking pace, and again that might not appeal to the American viewers. They like an all-action style and it's not going to be like that."

Wegerle might have been born and raised in the heat of South Africa, but he's spent the last eight years in Britain and admits he's now more accustomed to the cold climate and will take some time to re-acclimatise.

That is something which clearly concerns the 20 players who have been permanently based under contract to the USSF at Mission Viejo in California, working full-time to prepare for the forthcoming finals.

Defender Des Armstrong speaks for them all when he welcomes the experience and competitive spirit which will be added by Europe-based players such as Wegerle, John Harkes, Chad Dering, Peter Woodring, John Doyle and Ernie Stewart, but wonders whether they will have enough time to fit in with the rest of the squad.

Wegerle reveals he will not be allowed to join up with the squad before Coventry's final Premiership fixture on May 7, just six weeks before the US kick-off their World Cup campaign against Switzerland in Detroit. Should Millwall reach the First Division's promotion play-off final, Kasey Keller, John Kerr and Bruce Murray would not be arriving in America until the beginning of June.

"It's not an ideal situation and we don't get as much time to gel as we'd like," admits Wegerle.

"But we will just have to make it work. I think six weeks is more than enough.

"At the moment the US are playing with virtually two different teams. There is the side which is based at Mission Viejo and then there is the full-strength side containing all us European-based players.

"It's impossible to fly all the way to the States for a friendly during the middle of a professional season, which is why we've missed a lot of games in the last year or so. But once everyone is available, as we were against England last summer, we have a good selection of players."

'I knew I had made the right decision the minute I chose the United States'

On the subject of England, Wegerle insists that he draws absolutely no pleasure from the failure of Graham Taylor's team to qualify for the finals — he could have played for them instead of the US.

Having lived in Britain since 1976, Wegerle was entitled to a British passport and could have played for any of the four Home Nations. Instead he opted for the US citizenship made available after his marriage to an American and has no regrets about his decision.

"I knew I had made the right decision the minute I chose the US," he insists.

"Even if England had qualified for the finals I would still feel the same way. England's failure doesn't vindicate my decision in any way. I think it is very sad for the world game that no British nation will be participating in the premier tournament.

"I chose the US because there are too many things tying me to the place to ignore. I feel more American than British. They are my adopted country and I want to represent them. My wife is American and I am going to live in the States after I retire from football.

"I plan to start my own soccer coaching camp for 10 to 12-year-old kids. I want to put something positive back into the game and don't feel I have the required character to stay involved in professional soccer. I'd rather coach kids and try to get them on he right footing. "

Wegerle has been highly critical of the way the British game is developing in recent newspaper articles and clearly feels that too much emphasis has been placed in the physical aspects of the game while the technical side has been largely ignored.

Yet he refuses to be drawn into the subject any further and insists: "A lot of the stuff that was attributed to me was distorted to sensationalise things, so I'd rather not comment any further. I have had my view on things and apologised to people who may have taken offence at what I was reported to have said.

"You must draw your own conclusions from the fact that when you look at the qualifiers for this year's World Cup you will see a lot of emerging soccer nations such as Cameroon, Nigeria, Morocco, Switzerland, Greece and Norway yet no British teams.

"Even Pele recently wrote an article claiming that England are no longer a major force in world football and more and more people are coming round to that way of thinking. It is not just my opinion, it is the general concensus.

"Yet I have played in the English League for eight years and you know that it is still one of the best in the world. You have a lot of quality players, of that there is no doubt. But for some reason you just can't seem to get it together at a national level. So something must be wrong.

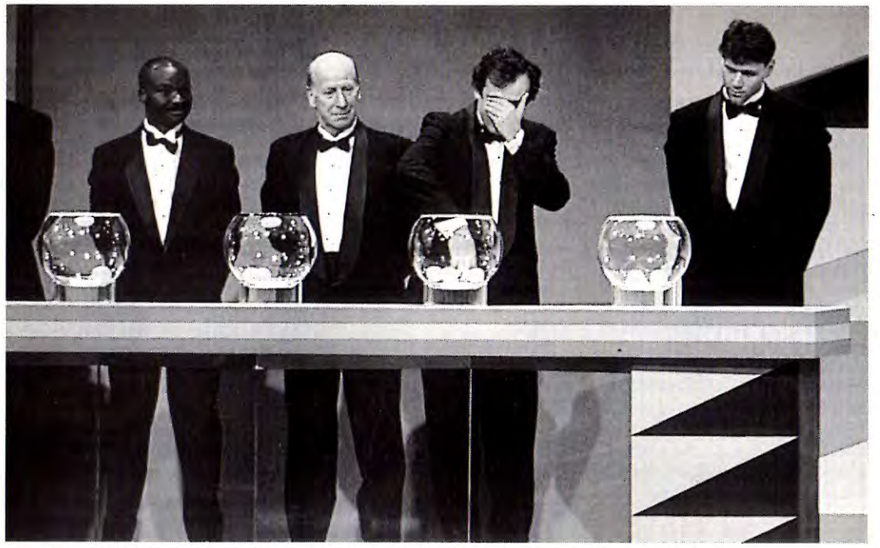
"This is a very important time for English football. You are at a crossroads and it is important that the right decisions are made. If they are, there is no reason why England cannot be at the next World Cup.

"For someone such as Kevin Keegan or Ray Wilkins, the opportunity is there to put your game on the right track. It all depends on which way the people in charge decide to go."

Discussing . . . Wegerle and US coach Bora Milutinovic talk tactics (above).

Surging . . . Wegerle in the all-white strip of the United States (left).

Flying . . . Coventry's top striker is sent flying by Oldham's Tore Pedersen (below).



Ball boys . . . Roger Milla, Bobby Charlton, Michel Platini and Marco Van Basten have a hand in the World Cup draw.

Bore draw

But it certainly wasn't a fix

A SOCCER event that ought to last about 10 minutes turned into a showbiz non-spectacular that took all of an hour and a half.

We had Barry Manilow, an uninspired Stevie Wonder, an ageing James Brown and a poor-quality tape of Rod Stewart. Plus those well-known soccer fans Faye Dunaway, Evander Holyfield and Robin Williams. But no Pele. The American media, in particular, were outraged by his enforced absence.

Pele, through his marketing company, is involved in a legal squabble with the Brazilian Federation. The President of that Federation, Ricardo Teixeira, happens to be the son-in-law of FIFA President Joao Havelange.

During the lead-up to the draw it became clear that Havelange —and Havelange alone — was determined not to permit Pele to play any part in the ceremony. He got his way, despite opposition from Alan Rothenberg, president of the US Soccer Federation and organiser-in-chief of World Cup '94, and from within FIFA.

Pele was present, of course, seated in the auditorium. When he arrived in the hall, he produced a tremendous commotion as reporters and TV cameramen swarmed around him. The uproar came close to delaying the start of the proceedings, a cardinal sin when worldwide TV is involved. To avoid any repetition, Pele left the hall 20 minutes early, with the draw still uncompleted.

Sandwiched between all that, Blatter conducted the draw; the usual ritual with coloured balls being drawn out of glass pots. Eusebio, Bobby Charlton, Michel Platini and Marco Van Basten did their bit. Pele was supposed to be among that group and his absence meant that there was no South American representation at all, an appalling insult to the continent that has won half the World Cup events.

To those who had bothered to study the criteria that FIFA had laid down, the draw was straightforward. The criteria were reasonable, designed to ensure groups of approximately equal strength and to avoid placing teams from the same Confederation in the same group (other than Europe which, with 13 teams, dominates the field and must have at least two teams in each group).

Those who insisted that the whole thing was fixed, found the ground knocked from under them. The Republic of Ireland, said the cynics, would definitely be in Boston, Mexico would obviously end up somewhere in California and the US would get an easy group to ensure a passage into the second round.

However, Ireland were drawn in New York, while Mexico were placed in Washington for two first-round games and in Orlando for another. As for the US, nobody was exactly overjoyed with a group that included Switzerland, Colombia and Romania. It will not be easy for the US to keep alive the tradition that has so far seen every host nation advance to the second round.

"If it was fixed," said Rothenberg, "you wouldn't find Colombia in the US group."

There was general agreement among the Americans that the first game — against Switzerland — has to be won. Even coach Bora Milutinovic seemed to think so, though he later added his usual dose of pragmatism when he was asked what the US would do if they lost to Switzerland: "Then we have to win the other games."

Switzerland's English coach, Roy Hodgson, said: "Our group, with the host team in it, will be the focus for a lot of media attention." He'd seen the hosts' 3-0 defeat to Germany the previous day and said: "The Americans had done well to hold the Germans at bay for so long."

Hodgson paused for a brief moment to consider the notion that he might change his team's approach for each of the games against the widely varying opponents in his group. Then he replied: "We qualify for the World Cup once every 30 years, we don't have a big pool of players, it's difficult to get them all together for any period of time . . . no, I think we'll stick to what we've been doing."

Argentina, who wanted to be in San Francisco, ended up in Boston. Coach Alfio Basile was not prepared for this. Brazil got the San Francisco site, but they also got a pretty tough-looking group with Russia, Cameroon and Sweden.

One of the groups had to contain three European teams and it turned out to be the one in New York, headed, as expected, by Italy. Add Ireland and Norway and you can see why Mexico are not too happy.

Smiles, undoubtedly, come from the Dutch and Belgians, drawn together with Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

If the draw was fixed, would anyone have arranged for Morocco to play Saudi Arabia, hardly the game we've all been waiting for, in Giants Stadium, mecca for all those knowledgeable New York and New Jersey fans?

The biggest smiles, probably, came from the Germans and the Spanish, who were paired with Bolivia and South Korea. Berti Vogts was diplomatic after the draw, not wishing to downgrade Bolivia, who the Germans will meet in the opening game of the tournament.

"An easy game? You have to remember the first game in 1990," he said. "With Cameroon beating Argentina."

PAUL GARDNER

Europe prepares for World Cup night shift

MILLIONS of European soccer fans will get a dose of their favourite illness next summer: late-night World Cup sickness.

Insomniac fans are going to need plenty of stamina, plus flasks of black coffee, to keep them going through the first eight days, or nights, of the tournament when there is a half-past midnight British Summer Time (BST) kick-off every night.

A total of only 11 matches out of the 52 in the month-long competition will kick off so late for Europeans, but that still means millions of soccer fans, from Dublin to Athens, watching live action of games taking place up to 11,000 kilometres away.

FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said: "Only 11 of the 52 matches kicking off so late is not a bad ratio. Of course that might well mean millions of people going to work bleary-eyed the next day but that is all part of the World Cup 'sickness' which fans love.

"On a more serious note, both FIFA and the organisers are very pleased with the finalised kick-off times. Most of the matches will kick off early in the afternoon or evening and the American organisers have done as much as humanly possible to accommodate all the conflicting interests, the fans in the stadiums, European TV and other fans around the world in Africa and Asia.

"For fans in Asia the late night matches in Europe will be at breakfast time. But people are used to this."

Jim Trecker, chief press spokesman for the organising committee said: "We think we have a very good balance of kick-off times. Obviously we can't please everybody, but we have known about the problems caused by our different time zones for six years and we think we have coped with them all.

"The opening match between holders Germany and Bolivia will kick off at 14.00 local time (18.00 BST) in Chicago on Friday, June 17. The late-night marathons will begin the same evening when Spain kick off against South Korea at 18.30 local time (22.30 BST) in Dallas. The other first round matches scheduled for late kick-offs are: Colombia v Romania (June 18); Cameroon v Sweden (June 19); Holland v Saudi Arabia (June 20), Bulgaria v Nigeria (June 21), United States v Colombia (June 22), South Korea v Bolivia (June 23), Sweden v Russia (June 24), Argentina v Bulgaria (June 30) and Greece v Nigeria (June 30).

"The only match in the later stages to kick off after 23.00 BST will be the semi-final played in Los Angeles on July 13. The final will kick off at 12.30 local time (18.30 BST) in Los Angeles on July 17.

Cold comfort for Euro champions

DENMARK'S European champions will NOT qualify directly for the European Championship in England in 1996, despite the expansion of the finals to 16 teams.

After deliberating long and hard, UEFA have come up with a qualifying tournament which will provide little by way of innovation when the draw is unveiled in Manchester on January 22. All those threats to marginalise the minnow nations, whose goal-against columns can undeservedly unhinge a preliminary group, have proved mere hot air. They will be there, in the qualifying mainstream, in all their goal-flooded glory.

Some 46 nations have entered the European Championship and their places in an even draw will be computed from countries' performances in qualifying rounds for the 1992 event and the 1994 World Cup.

The draw will comprise six groups of six teams and two groups of five. The six-team groups will each be granted two automatic places in the finals but only the winners of the five-team groups will go direct to England. The runners-up in the two five-team groups must play-off in a two-leg knock-out to decide the last qualifiers.

Extra problems surround the entries of strife-torn Armenia, Azerbaijan, Croatia and Georgia. Military conflict means either some, or all four, could be ordered to stage their home matches on neutral territory to ensure the safety of visiting players and officials. If this happens the competition could be unbalanced if these countries withdraw, claiming that a lack of "proper" home gates will rob them financially.

Wind of change

Rule and regulation changes for 1994

AMONG the changes approved by FIFA for this summer's finals:

A: Three points for a win during the 36 first-round games. The World Cup will award three points, instead of two, for a win, encouraging teams to attack and go for the win. Whether the new rule will alter things remains to be seen. It is still likely that, with three draws and three points, a team can qualify for the second round.

B: Suspensions. In past World Cups a player acquiring two yellow cards (in different games) was suspended for one game. This applied to cards received at any stage of the finals. This year the system will be changed. Each player's yellow-card slate will be wiped clean after the first-round games. The slate-wiping does not apply to red cards. Any player receiving a red card (whether direct, or a double-yellow) in the final game of the first round, will have to sit out the first game of the second round.

Before the tournament, every player will be required to sign a statement vowing that he will play fairly and respect the rules of the game. A good idea . . . but the same pledge was made before the 1982 World Cup, which featured German goalkeeper Toni Schumacher's brutal assault on Frenchman Patrick Batiston.

C: Extra time. If games from the second round on are level after 90 minutes, sudden-death extra time will be played and the game is over as soon as a team scores. If, after 30 minutes of extra time, there is still no score, the game will go to penalty kicks.

D: Awards. A new trophy has been created for the team that wins the Fair Play award. There will be two new awards: best goalkeeper of the tournament will win the Lev Yashin Cup, named after the great Russian 'keeper who starred in the 1958, 1962 and 1966 World Cups. An as yet unnamed award also will be presented to the team ajudged to have played the most attractive, entertaining football.

E: Playing rules. FIFA is considering two rule changes, but they will not be in force until after the World Cup. The first, allowing the use of three substitutes instead of two, is designed to allow the keeper to be replaced (but only by another keeper) at any time.

The second change is the abolition of the tackle from behind. These alterations have to be approved at the International Board's March meting and may come into force in July 1995, but it is likely that the tackle from behind will be banned in 1994, even without a rule change. Over the past few years FIFA has increasingly resorted to a back-door method of implementing rule changes by means of memoranda to referees. Before each World Cup a memorandum is sent out to all referees and coaches, supposedly to clarify refereeing. This method has been used to change the rules quite drastically: the memoranda issued before the Under-20 and Under-17 World Cups last year included an unequivocal ban on tackling from behind.

THE American Airlines All-Star World Cup Team revealed after a worldwide media competition was as follows:

Yashin — D. Santos, Beckenbauer, Moore, Breitner — R. Charlton, Maradona, Platini — Garrincha, Cruyff, Pele.

1994 WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

FIRST ROUND Date	Venue	Gp	Opponents	Local time	BST
Fri 17 June	Chicago	C	Germany v Bolivia	14.00	20.00
Fri 17 June	Dallas	C	Spain v South Korea	18.30	00.30
Sat 18 June	Detriot	A	US v Switzerland	11.30	16.30
Sat 18 June	New York	E	Italy v Republic of Ireland	16.00	21.00
Sat 18 June	Los Angeles	A	Colombia v Romania	16.30	00.30
Sun 19 June	Orlando	F	Belgium v Morocco	12.30	17.30
Sun 19 June	Los Angeles	B	Cameroon v Sweden	16.30	00.30
Sun 19 June	Washington	E	Norway v Mexico	16.00	21.00
Mon 20 June	San Francisco	B	Brazil v Russia	13.00	21.00
Mon 20 June	Washington	F	Holland v Saudi Arabia	19.30	00.30
Tue 21 June	Boston	D	Argentina v Greece	12.30	17.30
Tue 21 June	Chicago	C	Germany v Spain	15.00	21.00
Tue 21 June	Dallas	D	Nigeria v Bulgaria	18.30	00.30
Wed 22 June	Detroit	A	Romania v Switzerland	16.00	21.00
Wed 22 June	Los Angeles	A	US v Colombia	16.30	00.30
Thu 23 June	New York	E	Italy v Norway	16.00	21.00
Thu 23 June	Boston	C	South Korea v Bolivia	19.30	00.30
Fri 24 June	Orlando	E	Mexico v Republic of Ireland	12.30	17.30
Fri 24 June	San Francisco	B	Brazil v Cameroon	13.00	21.00
Fri 24 June	Detroit	B	Sweden v Russia	19.30	00.30
Sat 25 June	Orlando	F	Belgium v Holland	12.30	17.30
Sat 25 June	New York	F	Saudi Arabia v Morocco	12.30	17.30
Sat 25 June	Boston	D	Argentina v Nigeria	16.00	21.00
Sun 26 June	Chicago	D	Bulgaria v Greece	11.30	17.30
Sun 26 June	Los Angeles	A	US v Romania	13.00	21.00
Sun 26 June	San Francisco	A	Switzerland v Colombia	13.00	21.00
Mon 27 June	Chicago	C	Bolivia v Spain	15.00	21.00
Mon 27 June	Dallas	C	Germany v South Korea	15.00	21.00
Tue 28 June	New York	E	Republic of Ireland v Norway	12.30	17.30
Tue 28 June	Washington	E	Italy v Mexico	12.30	17.30
Tue 28 June	San Francisco	B	Russia v Cameroon	13.00	21.00
Tue 28 June	Detroit	B	Brazil v Sweden	16.00	21.00
Wed 29 June	Orlando	F	Morocco v Holland	12.30	17.30
Wed 29 June	Washington	F	Belgium v Saudi Arabia	12.30	17.30
Thu 30 June	Boston	D	Greece v Nigeria	19.30	00.30
Thu 30 June	Dallas	D	Argentina v Bulgaria	18.30	00.30

SECOND ROUND Date	Venue	Opponents	Local time	BST
Sat 02 July	Chicago	Winner C v 3rd A, B or F	12.00	19.00
Sat 02 July	Washington	Runner-up C v Runner-up A	16.30	21.30
Sun 03 July	Dallas	Runner-up F v Runner-up B	12.00	18.00
Sun 03 July	Los Angeles	Winner A v 3rd C, D or E	13.30	21.30
Mon 04 July	Orlando	Winner F v Runner-up E	12.00	17.00
Mon 04 July	San Francisco	Winner B v 3rd A, C or D	12.30	20.30
Tue 05 July	Boston	Winner D v 3rd B, E or F	13.00	18.00
Tue 05 July	New York	Winner E v Runner-up D	16.30	21.30
QUARTER-FINALS				
Sat 09 July	Boston	Winner Boston v Winner Wash'ton	12.00	17.00
Sat 09 July	Dallas	Winner Orlando v Winner SF	14.30	20.30
Sun 10 July	New York	Winner NY v Winner Chicago	12.00	17.00
Sun 10 July	San Francisco	Winner LA v Winner Dallas	12.30	20.30
SEMI-FINALS				
Wed 13 July	New York	Winner NY v Winner Boston	16.00	21.00
Wed 13 July	Los Angeles	Winner SF v Winner Dallas	16.30	00.30
THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF				
Sat 16 July	Los Angeles	Semi-final losers	12.30	20.30
FINAL				
Sun 17 July	Los Angeles	Semi-final winners	12.30	20.30

Commentary

Keir Radnedge

Does Havelange intend going on and on as FIFA president?

Say it ain't so, Joao!

TIME, I think, for Joao Havelange (right) to step down as FIFA president.

Whatever your opinions of him — and friends, as opposed to business associates, are hard to find — he has worked long and hard on FIFA's behalf. He has circled the globe time and again, displaying stamina remarkable in a man nearing 80. But enough is enough. Events at the World Cup draw in Las Vegas (below) showed Havelange and his autocratic rule in a distinctly unhappy light.

It was, to be frank, one of the worst weeks I can recall in FIFA's history as the world governing body tottered from one political minefield to another. Ultimate responsibility rests with the man at the top. Not only for overall failings but for the extraordinarily inept "Pele Affair".

The draw was the event which FIFA needed to stage-manage to perfection. After all, the draw was not even the biggest event in town. That was the grand opening of the MGM Grand Garden, the world's biggest hotel with 5,005 rooms, the world's biggest multi-storey car park and, according to the taxi drivers, the world's biggest traffic jam.

The draw for US '94 followed in the wake of that amid a huge public relations embarrassment because of the row between Pele and the Brazilian Confederation into which Havelange allowed himself to be drawn quite unnecessarily and with frighteningly bad judgment.

For the past 20 years, since ousting the late Sir Stanley Rous as FIFA president, Havelange has turned the international game into a social and commercial giant with a voracious appetite which devours sponsors, suppliers, marketing agents, officials and players. Not even Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the IOC, possesses such singular authority over his Olympic empire, made up as it is of so many disparate sports.

But as long as FIFA controls the World Cup — the ultimate goose with golden eggs — it will remain the world's pre-eminent sporting monolith. To lead FIFA demands an iron will coupled with political finesse and mental agility. These were long the trademarks of Havelange, whose sport-political reputation was founded on organising Brazil's World Cup hat-trick of 1958, 1962 and 1970. But the Pele Affair demonstrated that Havelange's judgment is not what it was — and not what it needs to be to lead FIFA and the world game forward to the 21st Century.

Certainly, Pele might have been rather better advised about his own timing when, after his TV company lost out in a bid for Brazilian soccer rights, he used a magazine interview with Playboy to excoriate the corruption rife within the Brazilian game. The president of the Brazilian Federation, Ricardo Teixeira, taking this as a personal affront, sued for defamation. Pele launched a counter suit alleging business malpractice.

Teixeira just happens to be the son-in-law of Havelange. And Havelange then took the controversial decision to bar Pele from featuring in the World Cup draw ceremony as punishment, slapping down the naughty schoolboy.

Pele is the only soccer superstar who is a nationwide personality in the US. He is the game's most powerful public relations weapon in what remains largely heathen territory. Dropping him from the draw was a catastrophic error. The American media, much of which remains suspicious — to say the least — about the advance of soccer, leaped on the story as evidence of amateur incompetence.

How, pondered a string of editorials, could the great American public take seriously a sport which insulted so beloved a star and thus shot itself so unerringly in the diplomatic foot? FIFA has staggered from one blunder to another this past week.

Dragging the red herring of a future World Club Championship across World Cup week was an unnecessary distraction; dithering over the seeding system was astonishing. The Pele Affair was the ultimate embarrassment. General secretary Sepp Blatter and media director Guido Tognoni squirmed in their chairs as they tried to gloss over the row. At every press conference, it was the first question raised.

Pele, trying to hide his bitter upset, insisted this was a "personal problem." He told me: "Havelange was always my idol. He helped me a lot in my career on and off the pitch, gave me a lot of advice. He is the boss: if he does not want me involved in the draw he has that power."

Exacerbating the hurt, Pele claims neither Havelange nor any of his acolytes offered the courtesy of a phone call of explanation. Pele said: "I learned I was not involved from talking to newspaper people and from reading the list of people who were involved in the draw . . . and seeing my name was not there."

Havelange, clearly, has reached the stage Rous approached in 1973. He should remember the lesson of that duel. Havelange, then, tried to warn Rous gently to quit the presidency with grace. Rous did not heed the warning, stood for re-election and suffered a humiliating defeat.

It's a cliche to say that football is all about players. But, most certainly, it is not about ageing officials who risk outstaying their welcome.

Baggio's treble top

ROBERTO BAGGIO can do no wrong. First the *WORLD SOCCER* World Player of the Year award, then the FIFA Footballer of the Year — announced in Las Vegas — then a hat-trick with the European Footballer of the Year prize accorded by *France Football*. Whether he is worthy is, to some extent, still open to question. As one may now say, you're only as good as your next World Cup.

1993 FIFA FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

1 Roberto BAGGIO (Juventus & Italy)	**152**
2 Romario (Barcelona & Brazil)	84
3 Dennis Bergkamp (Internazionale & Holland)	58
4 Peter Schmeichel (Manchester Utd & Denmark)	29
5 Hristo Stoichkov (Barcelona & Bulgaria)	22
6 Faustino Asprilla (Parma & Colombia)	21
7 Bebeto (La Coruna & Brazil)	16
8 Ronald Koeman (Barcelona & Holland)	15
9 Anthony Yeboah (Eintracht Frankfurt & Ghana)	13
10 Rai (Paris Saint-Germain & Brazil)	12

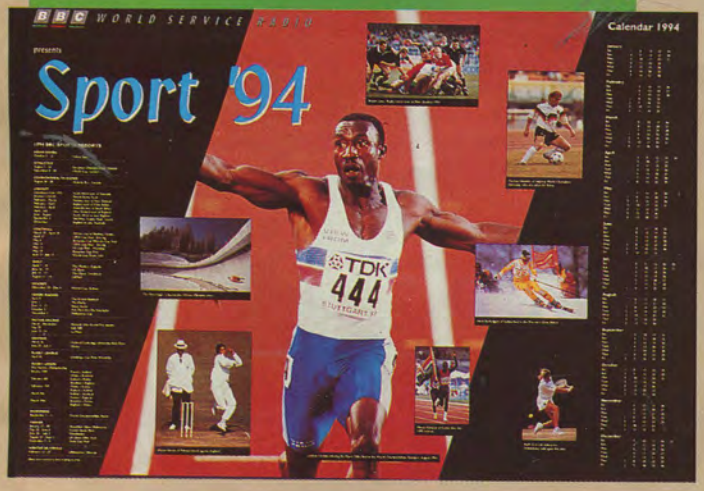
1993 EUROPEAN FOOTBLLER OF THE YEAR *(FRANCE FOOTBALL)*

1 Roberto BAGGIO (Juventus & Italy)	**142**
2 Dennis Bergkamp (Internazionale & Holland)	83
3 Eric Cantona (Manchester United & France)	34
4 Alen Boksic (Marseille/Lazio & Croatia)	29
5 Michael Laudrup (Barcelona & Denmark)	27
6 Franco Baresi (Milan & Italy)	24
7 Paulo Maldini (Milan & Italy)	19
8 Emil Kostadinov (Sporting Lisbon & Bulgaria)	11
9 Stephane Chapuisat (Borussia Dortmund & Switzerland)	9
10 Ryan Giggs (Manchester United & Wales)	9

ARE you a non-UK resident who will be relying on the *BBC World Service* to keep in touch with the 1994 World Cup action from the United States?

If so, you can obtain this poster/calendar/frequency-guide free by writing to: Sports Guide '94, *BBC World Service*, Sports Unit, Bush House, London, WC2B 4PH.

Remember this offer is NOT open to UK residents.



Disappointed with that . . .

EVERYONE involved in football falls into grammatical traps at one time or another. It's the excitement, you see.

But am I alone in being increasingly irritated by TV and radio commentators' habit of inverting every other sentence, such as: "Just the man for a crisis . . . Jones." Or: "Without doubt the team of the season . . . United."

Dutch treat — for the opposition

HOLLAND'S World Cup master plan fell apart in Las Vegas with the revelation that Johan Cruyff will not, after all, guide the assault on US '94.

For the best part of this year everyone, including current boss Dick Advocaat (below), had expected Cruyff to step in as Dutch manager for the finals in June. Instead, a Dutch Federation conference scheduled to celebrate Cruyff's signature in time for the World Cup draw announced a parting of the ways before they had even been joined.

Holland always tread a political minefield over the identity of their manager: this time it blew up in their faces. Officially, Cruyff will not take a June sabbatical from his Barcelona club post because of a failure to agree terms

over cash and kit with the Dutch Federation. However, I understand a contributory factor was the influence of Cruyff's family, concerned, among other factors, about his health after his heart attack two years ago.

The Dutch Federation had been pressing Cruyff for a decision all week up to the draw. They pulled the plug when phone and fax messages, sent on the Friday, went unanswered.

Advocaat, who guided Holland past England in the World Cup qualifiers, was quickly tied to a new four-year contract. However he then took a little revenge over the KNVB by insisting on spending a couple of days thinking over whether to manage Holland at the finals or not. Advocaat wanted to talk to senior players before accepting — which, of course, he did.

One player he must now discuss the finals with is Ruud Gullit. The Sampdoria veteran sulked out of the national squad after the 2-2 draw against England last spring, complaining about Advocaat's team selection and tactics. However, immediately after the victory in Poland which secured Holland's World Cup ticket, Gullit began to repair bridges by telephoning his congratulations to Advocaat. But Advocaat would be right to beware the sort of player-power ambush which undermined both Thys Libregts and then Leo Beenhakker in 1990.

INTERVIEW

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

Platt leads by example

DAVID PLATT and Paul Gascoigne. The tortoise and the hare, you might say.

Platt, turned down initially by Manchester United, now shining so brightly in Italy with Sampdoria. The model professional. The man who has made the very most of his ab ilities. Paul Gascoigne, the natural champion, blessed with every gift but good sense, lurching from one injury, one rumour of disaster, to the next in Rome, where gradually even Lazio fans have grown disillusioned with him.

Ironic that Patt should be a part of the England team which laboured to so unconvincing, if emphatic, a win over San Marino, a result which still did nothing to keep them in the World Cup.

It was in that very stadium, in Bologna, on a hot summer evening in 1990, that Platt superbly volleyed the goal which took England through against Belgium and took him, in due course, to Italy.

To Bari, in the Deep South of Puglia, where, in the past, Gordon Cowans and Paul Rideout had found it so hard to adapt. Platt simply took it in his stride and became a local hero, although the team was relegated.

Thence to Juventus and to notoriously cold, closed Turin, virtually a different country. Elegant North as opposed to tumultuous South; and a situation, Platt would find, which negated his basic talents.

For Juve and their manager, Gianni Trapattoni, hadn't calculated the arrival and explosion of Andy Moller, the litte German midfield attacker who had actually gone to FIFA to ensure that he would not be farmed out to Atalanta, as Juventus wanted.

Reluctantly, at first, Juve took him in; only for Moller immediateldy to excel with a burst of spectacular goals.

What to do, then, with Platt, who'd been bought at huge cost to operate, it was assumed, in his favourite place, just behind the front runners?

The answer, alas, was to play him deeper in midfield, where he could seldom get up far enough and fast enough to take the chances on which he had always thrived.

He accepted his fate . . . professionally, with a maturity which might have constituted a lesson to the wayward Gazza. But it was in many ways a wasted season and no surprise when, at the end of the season, he was sold to Sampdoria.

Platt himself, he admits, had almost ceased to believe. Believe, that is, as he usually does, every time he goes out on the field, that he is going to score a goal. Asked what the difference was between being with Juve and being at Sampdoria, Platt replied, with characteristic humour, "I play!"

At Juventus, he admits, "there were games when I came off and thought I could have done more. It was very, very difficult to get forward at Juventus, because everybody plays around Baggio; whereas here, however, it's come together. You've got Gullit, who doesn't really want to play centre-forward, Mancini, who doesn't want to play centre-forward, always coming back off the marking players. Leaving the space, as well."

Platt left golden opinions behind him at Juventus, not least those of Gianluca Vialli, who described him recently on Italian TV as "a player of extraordinary intelligence. His only trouble is that he's ten years ahead of his time."

As Ron Greenwood, you may remember, was wont to say about Martin Peters.

"All through my career," says Platt, "the biggest enjoyment I get is when I score goals."

He has been getting them at Sampdoria, where he feels thoroughly at home with the tactics of his Swedish manager, Sven-Goran Eriksson, formerly at Benfica, Fiorentina and AS Roma.

"Eriksson has a very great belief in his 4-4-2 system. But he realises that every now and then, if a team plays with two centre-forwards, then he's got to play with a sweeper. But he wants to play the game in an attacking manner."

Genoa, as a city; his third in Italy? "I love it! I think it's really, really nice, especially where I am. I'm more on the Riviera, I'm away from the city. I'm not a city man. I don't like living in cities. It's convenient that the training ground is in such a lovely area (Bogliasco). You can live close to it, without the hustle and bustle of the city."

What he won't concede is that our own football is technically inferior. "Our technique is very, very good. The English technique, I think we play the game a bit quicker, therefore in games we don't spend as much time on the ball.

"Certainly in Italy you have to be much sharper, quicker, because there isn't as much space."

Has he improved as a player through his time in Italy? "I would like to think so. By general concensus. In a funny way, even last year, the position I had to play in probably improved me as a player, as well.

"We work harder at Sampdoria. In terms of what we're doing. We do a lot of work on the fitness side, whereas at Juventus we didn't do as much. In Italy, they'll work more on the quality of your sprint. They work more dynamically. When I came and did the Lilleshall test, I thought I was fitter at Villa. Eighteen months later, I came back from Italy, and thought, there's no way I'll do as well. I beat it by a considerable distance!

"It's all in the muscles, wether the muscles can take it, and it must be something to do with the work you do over here; more dynamic."

The die was cast against England's World Cup hopes, he believes, "when we didn't put Holland down. The reuslts would have gone the same. If we'd beaten Holland that night, we could have gone out and drawn with San Marino. I couldn't see the Poles qualifying, because of the way that they travel."

Harking back to that disastrous game in Norway, when Graham Taylor suddenly and radically changed his tactics, used Pallister at left-back, and tried to implement a sweeper defence, Platt believes the main problem was that England's full-backs didn't push up.

"You can't play a five man defence. You've got to push your full-backs on. Baresi doesn't like marking. If someone played two centre-forwards against Milan last season, Rijkaard would drop back, Maldini would move in. But the majority of teams play with one centre forward in Italy. You need a situation where you have a spare man at the back.

"In Norway, when we played our three centre-halves, what we didn't do there was push our full-backs on, and that probably came about because we didn't have enough time to prepare on the pitch, because it followed so close on the Polish game."

A sophisticated analysis follows. Platt is cogent and shrewd about tactics. The goalkeeper, he says, would throw the ball out "to our full-backs," a midfielder would go deep to get the ball, "but inevitably what that did was leave us short at the front. Your midfield goes and shows, but if you're followed there you've created the space. But you haven't got enough players there."

The consequence of all this was that the pressure was off the Norwegian full-backs who didn't have to "make a decision; do I go tight, in which case there's space for their centre forward, or do I stand off and let the full-back have the ball? But their full-backs could sit back and stop in the channel."

All of which makes you regret that it was the confused Graham Taylor rather than the lucid Platt who decreed that night's ultimately disastrous tactics.

The intense concentration on football by the Italian media doesn't worry him.

"There seems," he says, "to be an interest in the technical side of it by the Italian Press and the Italian people."

It can, he knows, be highly critical at times, but he accepts that. Hard to see him coming home from Italy for a long time. He speaks the language well, he is wonderfully adjustable, he is playing better than ever, alongside the incomparable Ruud Gullit.

"He's still strong, he's still fit, he glides past people."

And how does Platt find him?

"Worldly," he smiles.

"Our technique is very, very good. The English technique, I think we play the game a bit quicker, therefore in games we don't spend as much time on the ball."

"We work harder at Sampdoria. In terms of what we're doing. We do a lot of work on the fitness side, whereas at Juventus, we didn't do as much.

ITALY

BY PADDY AGNEW

Capello's case for defence

MILAN coach Fabio Capello (right) knows the score. Only a 1994 Champions Cup and Italian League double can guarantee him his place as coach for a fourth consecutive season with the Italian champions.

The above observation might seem absurd. Has not Capello guided the team to two consecutive league titles? Are not Milan still firmly on top of the table at the halfway point?

Capello knows only too well the weight of expectations sitting on his shoulders. Despite impressive league form, Milan's recent defeat by Brazil's Sao Paulo in the World Club Cup final in Tokyo, their surprise elimination from the Italian Cup by Piacenza and their defeat last May by Marseille in the Champions Cup final have all blotted his copy book.

Berlusconi expects Milan to win, to win spectacularly and almost without interruption. The Milan, 1993-94 vintage, is a percentage machine that has conceded fewer goals (only eight) in the first half of the season than any other First Division side.

Yet, this safety-first Milan has not always pleased Berlusconi, and recent differences of opinion between him and Capello about the club's talented Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic have fuelled impressions that Capello himself may be due for a bout of "Turn Over", the English expression used by the Milan camp to explain their policy of an ever-changing team selection that makes full use of the 24-player first squad.

Savicevic neatly sums up the different viewpoints. There is no doubt that he is talented, but since joining Milan in the summer of 1992, he has found it difficult to get space in a side whose work-rate requirements often deny him the time in which to allow his fine skills to flourish.

Berlusconi thinks that Savicevic is all right and that room should be made for him, tactical considerations notwithstanding. The *spettacolo* guaranteed by Savicevic is worth the bother, he argues. Capello prefers all-round team players to spectacular individual talents. Hence his enthusiasm for Milan's most recent signing, Frenchman Marcel Desailly from Marseille for £3.5million.

In the end, Capello and Milan may settle the matter by continuing on their winning way. In the end, too, it could be that Berlusconi will leave before Capello, if Berlusconi's much talked-of entry into Italian political life forces him to sell the club.

None of which has stopped the speculation about Capello's successor. Current favourite is the Foggia coach, Bohemian Zdenek Zeman. A devotee of zonal soccer, Zeman's greatest achievement with Foggia was to remould the side, using mainly unknown Second and Third Division players, after Foggia had sold off their most talented players at the end of their first year (1991-92) in Serie A. The re-made Foggia are still there, in mid-table, playing some of the brightest soccer in Italy and embarrassing some of the big names.

Zeman's name also has been associated with other big clubs such as Lazio, Inter and AS Roma. If title chasers such as Sampdoria, Juventus and Parma can be considered more than happy with their respective coaches (Sven-Goran Eriksson, Giovanni Trapattoni and Nevio Scala), the same cannot be said of Inter and the two Roman sides.

Inter's New Year 2-1 home defeat by Atalanta was considered by many to have killed off the team's title chances. Unless Inter do well in either the Italian or UEFA Cups, then coach Osvaldo Bagnoli may be under pressure to retain his post. Big spending in mid summer, the arrival of Wim Jonk and Dennis Bergkamp and the unwelcome pre-season tag of title-favourites, do not seem to have done much for the club.

Both the Roman clubs, too, have reason to be unhappy about the long-term prospects of their respective coaches. Lazio, out of both the UEFA and Italian Cups, need to at the very least confirm their current place near the top to convince their president, Sergio Cragnotti, to retain coach Dino Zoff.

Injuries to key players, particularly Paul Gascoigne and Giuseppe Signori, have ruined the first half of the Lazio season. If they were to fully recover and play out the rest of the season, then Lazio and Zoff's worries might be greatly diminished. However, that is a big if.

Roma's season has proved even less successful so far than that of Lazio. Stuck in the lower half of the table, eliminated from the Italian Cup and not involved in European competition, Roma look short of stimulus. Coach Carlo Mazzone, in his first season, continues to struggle to put his imprint on the notoriously unruly Roma squad and it could be that, at the end of the year, he will go.

All of which leaves one intriguing question unanswered. Namely, how will Zeman's notoriously rigorous training methods be accepted at one of Italy's bigger clubs? Last summer, for instance, he refused to play lucrative pre-season friendlies, opting instead for a month-long intensive training camp.

That sort of thing is all very well at Foggia, but at Milan or AS Roma? Big-name clubs rely on friendlies for cash, while big-name players tend to resent dictatorial training methods.

For now, one can only say that 1994 has begun just as '92 and '93 did, namely with Milan out in front. As we have suggested before in this column, until you hear otherwise, the champions remain the team to beat.

CLUB FOCUS

CREMONESE

Address: Via Persico, 19, 26100 Cremona.

Telephone: (0372) 434016

Formed: 1903

President: Domenico Luzzara

Coach: Luigi Simoni

Stadium: Giovanni Zini

Capacity: 18,000.

HONOURS

Anglo-Italian Cup: 1993

No great expectations

A MID-TABLE Cremonese was not in the pre-season script. Runners-up in Serie B last year, the press made them favourites to go straight back down.

But the boys from Cremona — a town in Lombardy renowned for its medieval tower and nougat tart rather than its football — have exceeded all expectations, though their coach, Gigi Simoni, is not too surprised.

"The side has already showed tremendous character during the difficult moments of last season," he said. "And this time we haven't sold any of our best players."

Simoni joined Cremonese in the summer of 1992 from Carrarese in Serie C2, the Italian Fourth Division. Prior to that job he endured three consecutive sackings, at Genoa, Empoli and Cosenza.

Now he is back in Serie A after an eight-year absence and this time he is confident of staying.

"The president has asked me to keep the club up in Serie A for the first time in its history," explains Simoni.

"My response is not only do we have the team to do this but one that can give us great satisfaction."

Pessimism prevailed during the summer, despite the club's recent double success of winning promotion and the Anglo-Italian Cup at Wembley. It was well-founded.

On four previous occasions Cremonese have won a place in the top flight, in 1929, 1984, 1989 and 1991, and each time they were out of their depth — and immediately relegated.

Things were expected to be no different this season. Financial constraints meant only two new faces could be drafted in during the summer, keeper Sandro Mannini and midfielder Stefano De Agostini, for a modest £2 million. Little wonder the Cremona public snapped up a meagre 1,200 season tickets in August.

Club president Domenico Luzzara reveals the secret of their success: "A player only signs for my club only if he wants to succeed. I don't want men who are either passed it or who have already achieved everything."

Luzzara has been at the helm for a remarkable 28 years and his philosophy has been very much in evidence. The great Antonio Cabrini started with Cremonese back in 1973 when they were aThird Division outfit.

Gianluca Vialli and Attilio Lombardo also made their names in Cremona before both joining Sampdoria. Vialli, incidentally, made his league debut for the Lombardy club in 1980 at the tender age of 16.

Cremonese have a reputation for producing young talent. Two years ago Lazio snapped up their three Under-21 internationals — Giuseppe Favalli, Marco Bonomi and Dario Marcolin — for a cool £7 million.

But Luzzara already has a new crop making the headlines. There is the fine young defender Francesco Coilonnese, midfield starlet Riccardo Maspero and last season's 16-goal hero, Andrea Tentoni.

Tentoni is currently one of the hottest properties in the Italian game. His eight goals mean he shares a pedestal with Ruben Sosa and Daniel Fonseca, yet just 18 months ago he was wallowing in Serie C2.

"He was a nobody at Vis Pesaro and I saw him play against us," explains Simoni, who was then with Carrarese.

"I was impressed with his pace and when I was given the job at Cremona I asked him to follow me. He has repaid the faith I had put in him. He is the best counter-attacking player in Italy. I'd like to see him called up to the national side. He deserves it."

But whatever Cremonese achieve it probably will not be enough to keep hold of Tentoni, a £400,000 buy but now worth 10 times that.

"What is my dream?" says the 24-year-old striker. "I would say playing for Italy. But being more realistic, it would be to play for a big club."

For the moment Tentoni and friends have Cremona buzzing. The compact stadio Zini — which can only hold 18,000 — is full for each home game and season-ticket sales have since trebled to over 3,000.

Even the Mayor of Cremona, Alfeo Garini, reckons the Zini is the place to be on a Sunday after a hard week at the Town Hall.

"Never have I seen Cremonese play as well as they are playing this season," he enthused. "Simoni really is a magician!"

MARIO RISOLI

Hot-shot . . . leading scorer Andrea Tentoni (stripes), in action against Parma's Antonio Benarrivo.

THE COACH

Luigi SIMONI.
Aged 55.
Former Torino right winger who masterminded Cremonese's Anglo-Italian Cup and promotion double in 1993. Previously coached Genoa, Empoli, Cosenza and Carrarese.

THE PLAYERS

Luigi TURCI
Goalkeeper
Aged 23 (born Cremona, January 27, 1970)
One of the many young talents discovered by Cremonese, he was loaned to Treviso and Alesandria before returning for the promotion season.

Alessandro MANNINI
Goalkeeper
Aged 36 (born Viareggio, August 26, 1957)
Signed from Fiorentina in the summer. Hugely experienced, he spent ten seasons at Pisa before moving on to Bari, Pescara and then Fiorentina.

Luigi GUALCO
Defender
Aged 28 (born Alassio, March 4, 1965)
A Cremonese player since 1985, he has enjoyed three promotions to Serie A with the club. Full-back or stopper.

Francesco COLONNESE
Defender
Aged 22 (born Potenza, August 10, 1971)
An exciting prospect, the youngster has played as libero, full-back and stopper. Now established in the Under-21s, previously played for hometown club Potenza and then Giarre before signing for Cremonese in 1992. One to watch.

Alfredo BASSANI
Defender
Aged 23 (born Lodi, July 3, 1970)
Came from Third Division side Chievo last year, he is a utility defender brought in by Simoni to bolster the squad.

Corrado VERDELLI
Defender
Aged 30 (born Lodi, September 30, 1963)
The libero in the side, he won a championship medal with Inter in 1990 then signed for Cremonese immediately after.

Davide LUCARELLI
Defender
Aged 30 (born Pistoia, March 14, 1963)
Made his Serie A debut with Avellino back in 1984. Six seasons with Pisa, followed by two with Padova. An experienced full-back he only made 4 appearances last season.

Stefano DE AGOSTINI
Midfielder
Aged 29 (born Udine, October 25, 1964)
A summer acquisition from Atalanta. Joined local club Udinese in 1981 but had to wait ten years before he played a Serie A match, with Napoli. Moved to Atalanta after just one season in Naples.

Alessandro PEDRONI
Midfielder
Aged 22 (born Brescia, Janaury 30, 1971)
Another young talent, this tough midfielder came to Cremona in 1989 but found himself loaned out to Fourth Division sides Treviso and Vastese.

Gianni CRISTIANI
Midfielder
Aged 30 (born Prato, February 9, 1963)
A Fiorentina player in 1981 he could not make the grade and left for a career in the lower divisions, including spells at Varese, Rimini, Catanzaro and Empoli.

Marco GIANDEBIAGGI
Midfielder
Aged 24 (born Parma, February 1, 1969)
Another of the club's outstanding young talents. A hard-working winger he is a product of the excellent Parma youth scheme.

Riccardo MASPERO
Midfielder
Aged 23 (born Lodi, February 19, 1970)
A busy midfielder he made his Cremonese debut as an 18-year-old five years ago. A former Italian Under-21 international.

Eligio NICOLINI
Midfielder
Aged 32 (born Omegna, January 19, 1961)
A talented playmaker he had five successful seasons with Atalanta before moving to Cremona in the summer of 1992.

Gustavo DEZOTTI
Forward
Aged 29 (born Monte Buey, Argentina, February 14, 1964)
Signed for Lazio from Newell's Old Boys in 1988 but failed miserably. Joined Cremonese the following season and has now scored 50 goals for the club.

Andrea TENTONI
Forward
Aged 24 (born Rimini, May 19, 1969)
One of the revelations in Serie A, his £400,000 transfer from Vis Pesaro two years ago now made to look like a steal. Top scorer with 16 goals last season, a call-up from Arrigo Sacchi is on the cards.

Matjac FLORJANCIC
Forward
Aged 26 (born Kranj, Slovenia, October 9, 1967)
A nippy forward with a "super-sub" reputation. The second foreigner in the squad, he played previously for Rijeka in Yugoslavia before signing in 1991.

RESULTS

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	17	10	6	1	20	8	26
Juventus	17	9	5	3	31	17	23
Sampdoria	17	10	3	4	29	22	23
Parma	17	9	4	4	25	13	22
Lazio	17	7	7	3	21	15	21
Internazionale	17	7	6	4	22	15	20
Napoli	17	7	5	5	27	17	19
Torino	17	7	4	6	22	17	18
Cremonese	17	6	5	6	19	17	17
AS Roma	17	5	7	5	16	16	17
Foggia	17	3	10	4	20	20	16
Cagliari	17	6	4	7	23	29	16
Piacenza	17	4	7	6	14	23	15
Genoa	17	4	5	8	13	22	13
Atalanta	17	4	5	8	18	30	13
Reggiana	17	3	6	8	10	21	12
Udinese	17	2	7	8	10	22	11
Lecce	17	1	2	14	14	30	4

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

WEEKEND

PARMA 0
MILAN 0. Att: 28,800.

SAMPDORIA 3 (Platt 36, Gullit 66, 87 pen)
CREMONESE 1 (Dezotti 45). Att: 28,000.

INTER 2 (Sosa 33, 90 pen)
JUVENTUS 2 (R. Baggio 55, Moller 77). Att: 80,000.

TORINO 3 (Ceramicola 44 og, Silenzi 66, 76)
LECCE 0. Att: 22,000.

LAZIO 4 (Fuser 3, Signori 51, 76, 83 pen)
GENOA 0. Att: 45,000.

NAPOLI 5 (Fonseca 3, 20, 83, Di Canio 85, Buso 90)
REGGIANA 0. Att: 35,000.

CAGLIARI 1 (Oliveira 36)
AS ROMA 1 (Hassler 72). Att: 20,000.

PIACENZA 5 (Piovani 1, Ferrante 18, Ferazzoli 32, Turrini 71, 84)
FOGGIA 4 (Roy 15, 69, Stroppa 43 pen, Cappellini 72). Att: 11,000.

UDINESE 0
ATALANTA 0. Att: 16,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

MIDWEEK

ITALIAN CUP — 3RD ROUND, 1ST LEG

ATALANTA 0
TORINO 3

ANCONA 1
AVELLINO 0

FIORENTINA 1
VENEZIA 2

PARMA 1
BRESCIA 1

FOGGIA 1
CESENA 1

SAMPDORIA 2
AS ROMA 1

UDINESE 0
INTER 0

MILAN 1
PIACENZA 1

WEEKEND

ATALANTA 1 (Orlandini 1)
LAZIO 1 (Di Matteo 17). Att: 20,000.

CREMONESE 4 (Tentoni 18, 54, Dezotti pen 45, Florjancic 82)
PIACENZA 0. Att: 11,500.

FOGGIA 2 (Roy 40, Stroppa 60)
UDINESE 2 (Pizzi 6, Branca pen 78). Att: 18,000.

JUVENTUS 1 (Ferrara og 27)
NAPOLI 0. Att: 35,000.

LECCE 1 (Notaristefano 89)
INTER 3 (Bergkamp 33, Shalimov 85, 87). Att: 20,000.

MILAN 1 (Raducioiu 28)
TORINO 0. Att: 60,000.

REGGIANA 3 (Matteut 20, Padovano pen 24, 69)
CAGLIARI 1 (Matteoli 75 pen). Att: 13,000.

AS ROMA 2 (Comi 18, Cappioli 74)
PARMA 0. Att: 51,602.

GENOA 1 (Ruotolo 1)
SAMPDORIA 1 (Platt 42). Att: 40,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

WEEKEND

GENOA 1 (Detari 36)
FOGGIA 4 (Stroppa 35, 82, pen, P. Bresciani 49, Roy 85). Att: 22,476.

INTER 3 (Battistini 4, Jugovic og 28, Bergkamp pen 56)
SAMPDORIA 0. Att: 47,023.

LAZIO 3 (Kohler og 49, Boksic 59, Gascoigne 90)
JUVENTUS 1 (A. Fortunato 54). Att: 66,042.

NAPOLI 4 (Pavano og 51, Policano 59, 74, Pecchia 66)
ATALANTA 0. Att: 20,000.

PIACENZA 1 (Piovani 60)
AS ROMA 0. Att: 12,731.

REGGIANA 1 (Padovano 71)
LECCE 0. Att: 11,677.

TORINO 1 (Silenzi 66)
CREMONESE 1 (Tentoni 90). Att: 21,241.

CAGLIARI 0
PARMA 4 (Asprilla 39, Melli 65 71, Zola 83) Att: 22,476

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

WEEKEND

MILAN 2 (Massaro 31, 34)
CAGLIARI 1 (Villa 37). Att: 55,000.

SAMPDORIA 1 (Lombardo 55)
REGGIANA 0. Att: 25,000.

PARMA 1 (Brolin 33 pen)
NAPOLI 3 (Gambaro 3, Fonseca 60, Thern 60). Att: 26,000.

JUVENTUS 2 (Conte 62, Ravanelli 88)
PIACENZA 0. Att: 35,000.

AS ROMA 1 (Balbo 14)
INTER 1 (Sosa 70). Att: 55,000.

LECCE 1 (Gazzani 22)
LAZIO 2 (Winter 29, Casiraghi 90). Att: 10,000.

FOGGIA 1 (Mandelli 11)
TORINO 0. Att: 19,000.

CREMONESE 1 (Giandebiaggi 16)
UDINESE 1 (Branca 20 pen). Att: 8,000.

ATALANTA 2 (Ganz 11, Valentini 68)
GENOA 1 (Skuhravy 10). Att: 19,000.

Beckenbauer in Bayern ta

BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

FRANZ BECKENBAUER, who insisted after his Marseille disaster that he would never take another club job, has broken his rule — for the sake of Bayern Munich.

Kaiser Franz has stepped back into the hot seat as coach in place of Erich Ribbeck whose position became untenable when inconsistent league results were topped by the UEFA Cup defeat by Norwich.

Ribbeck's likely departure had been the subject of intense media speculation. He said: "I'm disappointed but hardly surprised. The European elimination was probably the decisive factor."

A compensation cheque for £150,000 plus the promise of a bonus should Bayern recover form and win the league title softened the blow of dismissal.

Beckenbauer, who had been joint executive vice-president since the autumn of 1992 and was a key figure in Ribbeck's original appointment, said: "I said I would never do this again for a club . . . but Bayern are different. This was my football home."

Beckenbauer's appointment raised an old controversy over coaching qualifications. He did not hold the necessary formal qualifications when appointed as national team boss in 1984, though these were later granted on an honorary basis because of his exceptional contribution to the West German game.

Beckenbauer's return to active ser-

Returning . . . Franz Beckenbauer.

Departing . . . Erich Ribbeck.

SPOTLIGHT ON ANDY MOLLER

ANDY MOLLER is, at long, long last, promising to fulfil all hopes vested in him over a decade by Germany manager Berti Vogts.

Confirmation arrived with the Juventus midfielder's inspirational performance which lifted the world champions to a 2-1 victory against Brazil in November, only Germany's third win over the South Americans in 15 meetings during the past 30 years. Moller's skill on the ball and passing was like a headache cure for Vogts, an admirer ever since he first picked out Moller for the German youth team.

Vogts has struggled to find the right blend in midfield since he took over from Franz Beckenbauer after the 1990 World Cup triumph. At times he seemed uncertain about who should be the main playmaker. But by switching captain Lothar Matthaus to sweeper and holding Stefan Effenberg to a more defensive role, Vogts has "found" the space in which Moller can express his controversial talents.

Against Brazil the 26-year-old midfielder, mostly a major disappointment in his previous 32 internationals, scored the winner in the 41st minute with a fierce right-foot shot. Vogts said: "Moller was our best player. It was probably his best performance in a senior international."

Part of Vogts's tactical development in midfield has been the use of veteran defender Guido Buchwald as "bodyguard" while Moller roams forward into the gap behind strikers Jurgen Klinsmann and Karlheinz Riedle, the same position he occupies at club level and which he denied David Platt in their private duel last season at Juventus.

Forgotten now are the rows over Moller's career wanderings, from Eintracht Frankfurt to Borussia Dortmund and back, then the chaotic move to Italy when Juventus tried to deflect him to Atalanta against Moller's will.

Moller says: "I feel so much more at home now with all my football and especially in the national team. I can find space much better and my team-mates are no longer afraid to look for me with the ball compared with the old

Celebrating . . . Moller equalises for Germany against Argentina in Miami.

PRO-FILE

ANDREAS "ANDY" MOLLER

JUVENTUS AND GERMANY

Born: September 2, 1967 in Frankfurt.

Previous clubs: Eintracht Frankfurt, Borussia Dortmund, Eintracht Frankfurt.

International caps: 36 (11 goals).

International debut: 1988, v Soviet Union.

HONOURS

World Cup: 1990.

West German Cup: 1988 *(with Eintracht Frankfurt)*, 1989 *(with Borussia Dortmund)*.

UEFA Cup: 1993 *(with Juventus)*.

rn takeover shock

vice will surely help maintain the attendance revival evident from statistics collated at the end of the autumn league programme.

The average gate of 27,761 was the best since 1977-78 when it reached 28,418. More goals had been scored — 466 (average 3.04) as against 459 (average 3.00) at the corresponding stage last year.

Although there were 18 red/yellow cards (last term 15) and 20 red (19 last time) there was a significant drop in booking from 627 to 527. Maybe this is a consequence of the new rule whereby every fifth yellow card brings an automatic ban for one match. The highest average gates were reported by Bayern Munich with 46,875, followed by Borussia Dortmund (41,793), Nurnberg (38,422), Eintracht Frankfurt (34,962) and Schalke (34,425). The worst attendances were registered by the two former East German clubs Dynamo Dresden (13,133) and VfB Leipzig (12,313).

None of the three pre-season title favourites Bayern, holders Werder Bremen and Eintracht Frankfurt were wholly convincing. Only the inconsistency of their closest rivals allowed Frankfurt to share top spot with Bayern Leverkusen. Frankfurt blame their stumbles on the injury-enforced absence of Ghana striker Anthony Yeboah. With him in the side they scored 26 goals and gained 16 out of a possible 18 points from their first nine matches. Without him they scored only eight times and collected eight points out of a possible 18.

Poland's Jan Furtok could not carry the attack on his own while Norwegian Jorn Andersen and Yugsolav Radmilo Mihajlovic made little impression. Their hopes rest on Yeboah returning to fitness in the New Year.

Bremen also flattered on occasions only to deceive; they fell back to fifth place. But they covered themselves in glory in the Champions League. After losing their opening tie 3-2 to Porto, Werder delighted the fans with a superb fightback against Anderlecht. Trailing 3-0 at home at half-time, they hit five goals in 24 minutes to win in sensational fashion 5-3.

Werder are one of five German clubs who made it to the later rounds along with Leverkusen (Cup-winners Cup) and Frankfurt, Borussia Dortmund and European debutants Karlsruhe in the UEFA Cup.

Werder are already revelling in a financial Euro-bonanza and the players are on a bonus of £2,000 per point. In the money too are Leverkusen who have never been champions — their only trophies are the UEFA Cup (1988) and the DFB Cup last season. Bayer were surprisingly knocked out of the DFB Cup by Dynamo Dresden on penalties, but face Benfica in the Cup-winners Cup quarter-finals in March.

Already each player has collected a record bonus of £20,000 for reaching the last eight while the club are assured of banking more than £3 million more than they earned for winning the UEFA Cup five years ago. Television provides the main source of income.

The biggest problem for manager Dragoslav Stepanovic is the friction surrounding the veteran midfielder Bernd Schuster.

The rumblings in Stuttgart, only 14th in the table, culminated in the controversial team boss Christoph Daum throwing in the towel. His successor is Jurgen Rober, who took Second Division Rotweiss Essen to the semi-finals of the Cup.

days when I was often tightly marked and in a tactical straight-jacket. Also, of course, it helps that this has been a good season for me so far in Italy. I suppose it helps having Roberto Baggio as a team-mate at Juventus: he draws so many opposing defenders and that gives the rest more room in which to operate.

"With the national team it's great having Guido behind me. He tells me what's going on and where to turn next. I have waited a long time for this. I'm not going to let it go now, with the Wold Cup just a matter of months away. I was in the squad in Italy in 1990 but I wasn't really one of the team. Hopefully now, all that has changed."

'Vogts has been an admirer ever since he first picked out Moller for the German youth team'

BY RINO LANDA

RESULTS

BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayer Leverkusen	20	9	7	4	40	27	25
Einracht Frankfurt	20	10	5	5	35	24	25
Bayern Munich	20	8	8	4	42	23	24
Kaiserslautern	20	10	4	6	39	26	24
Werder Bremen	20	8	7	5	30	23	23
Hamburg	20	10	3	7	34	29	23
Duisburg	20	8	7	5	26	29	23
Borussia Mg	20	8	5	7	41	38	21
Karlsruhe	20	6	8	6	27	22	20
Bor. Dortmund	20	7	6	7	29	31	20
Dyn. Dresden	20	6	8	6	21	29	20
Freiburg	20	7	5	8	36	36	19
Koln	20	8	3	9	24	28	19
Stuttgart	20	5	8	7	26	31	18
Nurnberg	20	6	3	11	24	33	15
Wattenscheid	20	3	8	9	26	38	14
Schalke	20	4	6	10	20	34	14
Leipzig	20	2	9	9	16	35	13

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

WEEKEND

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0
BORUSSIA MG 3 (Dahlin 15, 39, Max 60). **Att:** 21,500.

KAISERSLAUTERN 3 (Kuntz 34, Wagner 35, Fuchs 70)
KOLN 0. **Att:** 33,000.

LEVERKUSEN 2 (Kirsten 43, Worns 57)
DUISBURG 1 (Steininger 78). **Att:** 18,700.

FREIBURG 3 (Wassmer 5, 64, 84)
BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Labbadia 86). **Att:** 15,000.

NURNBERG 0
HAMBURG 1 (Von Hessen 36). **Att:** 26,800.

STUTTGART 0
WERDER BREMEN 0. **Att:** 14,000.
● *Christoph Daum announces his decision to quit as Stuttgart coach.*

KARLSRUHE 3 (Kiriakov 28, 43, 45)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 3 (Poschner 3, Chapuisat 16, 18). **Att:** 15,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Penksa 17)
LEIPZIG 0. **Att:** 12,120.

SCHALKE 4 (Anderbrugge 43, Buskens 45, Eckstein 79, Mulder 85)
WATTENSCHEID 1 (Sane 3). **Att:** 24,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

MIDWEEK

GERMAN CUP — Quarter-finals

FREIBURG 0
TENNIS BORUSSIA 1

CARL ZEISS JENA 0
RW ESSEN 0
RW Essen won on pens

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1
LEVERKUSEN 1
Dynamo Dresden won on pens

WERDER v KAISERSLAUTERN — *postponed*

WEEKEND

WERDER BREMEN 1 (Rufer 49)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0. **Att:** 25,381.

BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Labbadia 58)
LEVERKUSEN 1 (Rydlewicz 53). **Att:** 33,000.

HAMBURG 1 (Hartmann 25)
KARLSRUHE 1 (Bilic 86). **Att:** 19,050.

WATTENSCHEID 3 (Sane 29, 62, Lesniak 79)
FREIBURG 1 (Zeyer 77). **Att:** 5,000.

KOLN 0
NURNBERG 1 (Wiesinger 77). **Att:** 21,000.

LEIPZIG 0
STUTTGART 0. **Att:** 5,800.

BORUSSIA MG 3 (Kastenmaier pen 57, Pflipsen 72, Wynhoff 82)
KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Haber 84). **Att:** 27,000.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Sammer 86)
SCHALKE 1 (Sendscheid 55). **Att:** 42,800.

DUISBURG 1 (Kozle 41)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Nowak 90). **Att:** 19,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

WEEKEND

NURNBERG 2 (Kubik 32, 90)
BORUSSIA MG 4 (Wynhoff 13, Max 34, Dahlin 70, Pflipson 74). **Att:** 29,400.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Marschall 21)
BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Labbadia 85). **Att:** 24,000.

STUTTGART 4 (Dunga 18, Strunz 28, Knup 31, F. Walter 68)
DUISBURG 0. **Att:** 12,000.

KARLSRUHE 2 (Bonan 3, Kiriakov 80)
KOLN 0. **Att:** 15,000.

SCHALKE 1 (Scherr 89)
HAMBURG 0. **Att:** 30,325.

FREIBURG 4 (Cardoso 39, 58, Todt 53, Wassmer 80)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Chapuisat 58). **Att:** 15,000.

LEVERKUSEN 1 (Kirsten 30)
WATTENSCHEID 1 (Sane 29). **Att:** 13,000.

KAISERSLAUTERN 1 (Kuntz 2)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Binz 18). **Att:** 38,000.

LEIPZIG 1 (Bredow 36)
WERDER BREMEN 1 (Hobsch 51). **Att:** 10,800.

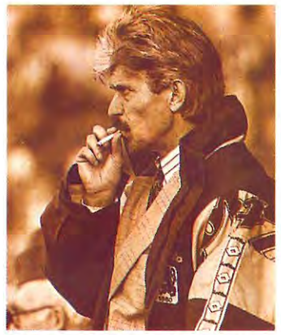
LEADING SCORERS

1 ..Kuntz (Kaiserslautern).....15
2 ..Sergio (Leverkusen).....11
3 ..Chapuisat (Bor. Dortmund).....10
Kirsten (Leverkusen).....10
Baron (Hamburg).....10
Von Heesen (Hamburg).....10
Zarate (Nurnberg).....10

CLUB FOCUS

TSV 1860
MUNICH

Lions roaring back in Munich



Leading . . . TSV coach Werner Lorant.

Greeting . . . TSV's Brunnenmeier and West Ham's Moore at Wembley in 1965.

NO OTHER prominent European club has experienced such a roller-coaster existence as one of Germany's most popular outfits, TSV 1860 Munich.

In 1965 they became only the second German club (after Eintracht Frankfurt), to reach a European Final — the Cup-winners Cup, which they lost 2-0 to West Ham at Wembley. A year later they won the championship for the first and only time. They were also German Cup winners in 1942 and 1964.

But later they were relegated and in 1982 demoted to the amateur ranks, where they spent nine long years. Promotion was swiftly followed by another drop, but now they are enjoying a revival in the Second Division which will, hopefully, be rewarded with a return to their rightful place among the elite of German football.

The Turn und Sportverein (gymnastic and sports club) get their name from the foundation date of May 17, 1860. Originally a gymnastic club, the football section was launched in 1889 and they played like all other German outfits in regional leagues. When the Bundesliga was founded in 1963, it was 1860 as champions of the Landesliga Sud who were invited to take part and not local rivals Bayern Munich.

At that time 1860 were far more popular than Bayern and boasted a much larger following. Bayern had to fight to achieve promotion to the Bundesliga (1965), but even then 1860 were drawing bigger crowds. They wear the Bavarian colours of blue-and-white and the national emblem of the lion and were founded exactly 40 years before Bayern, which helped them to establish a solid tradition. In their first Bundesliga season 1860 finished seventh, next they were fourth and at the third attempt won the championship.

But when key players grew too old together the rot set in and the club were relegated in 1970. Worse was to come when, for the 1982-83 season, though they finished fourth in the Second Division, they were refused a professional licence because of financial irregularities.

They were demoted to the Bavarian amateur Oberliga, while all their players' contracts were declared null and void. They did not regain professional status until achieving promotion back to the Second Division in 1991.

The jubilation was short-lived. At the end of term 1860 failed in the relegation play-offs and were again sent down to rejoin the amateurs. Twelve months on and the Bavarians, back in the Second Division, are on course to reclaim their position among the elite. At the winter break they were placed second, four points ahead of Saarbrucken. Two teams go up.

The turning point in their fortunes came with the arrival of the catering tycoon Karl-Heinz Wildmoser, 54. He had been a Bayern member since 1972 but, when he failed to obtain a place on the board, he took his millions to the Lions.

In 18 months as president he helped to transform the ailing club with the aid of team manager Werner Lorant, 45. Lorant played for 10 different amateur and professional clubs and earned his spurs as team chief first as player-manager with FC Schweinfurt (1986-90). Following a spell with Viktoria Aschaffenburg he signed for 1860 in the summer of 1992.

The stars are goalkeeper Rainer Berg, who once played for Bayern and earlier for 1860, and strikers Bernhard Winkler, the latest acquisition, and former Austrian international Peter Pacult, now 34, who made his name with Rapid Vienna.

Written off at home, this former postman had been loaned out from Stahl Linz for a year before 1860 engaged him permanently for a bargain £30,000. Pacult repaid the trust and is currently the Second Division's top scorer with 11 goals.

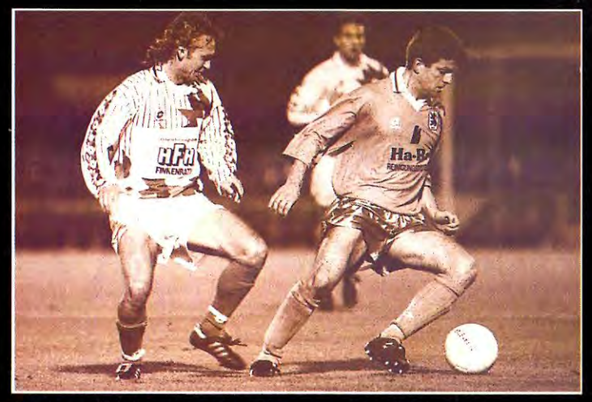
The enthusiasm in Munich is boundless with an average 25,000 fans visiting the modest ground on the Grunwalder Strasse. After every victory the supporters organise a horn-blasting car cortege through the streets of the Bavarian capital and sing their latest hymn — "We are stronger than ever".

Wildmoser says: "In three years we shall catch up with Bayern."

He wants to enlarge the stadium to hold 40,000 and tie his key players to long-term contracts.

"We need, above all, local talents with whom the fan in the street can identify," he says. "Bayern are still No. 1 in Munich — but not for long."

ARTHUR ROTMIL



Turning . . . TSV's Storzenhofer (right) leaves Wuppertaler's Voigt trailing.

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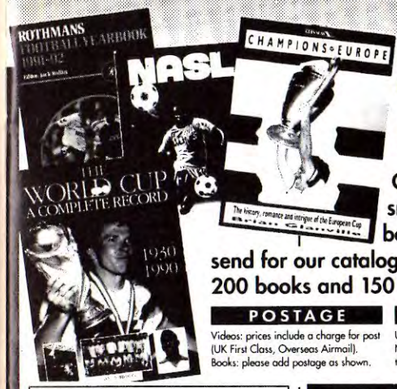

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SPAIN

BY GRAHAM TURNER

WorldCup USA94

Dream draw for Clemente

"IF we're going to the World Cup we're going there to win it." That was the reaction from team manager Javier Clemente to the draw which pits Spain against South Korea in Dallas and then Germany followed by Bolivia in Chicago.

"If I could have designed the draw I would have gone for a group like this," said Clemente.

"The opponents and the venues are just what I wanted. Something serious will have to go wrong for Spain not to qualify."

Two Basque coaches with the same name will come face to face in Chicago. Javier Azcargorta is preparing his Bolivian team with a series of friendlies in Spain and a lengthy training camp at the so-called High Performance Centre at Sant Cugat, just outside Barcelona.

The Spaniards base their optimism on past performances. They beat South Korea 3-1 in Italy (all three by Michel, controversially discarded by Clemente) and knocked West Germany out of the 1984 European Championship finals with a last-minute header by Antonio Maceda.

Peacock slaughtered

IF YOU ever need a name to illustrate the old adage about pride and falls, make a note of Francisco "Paco" Real.

After submitting a report which urged the Valencia board to dismiss Guus Hiddink, he took possession of the Dutchman's office and greeted the players by congratulating them on having inherited "the best coach in the world".

Valencia's 53-year-old version of Cassius Clay had been in charge of the nursery side Mestaila for 10 years and is director of the Valencian Coaching School. He has also had spells at the helm of Alzira, Torrent, Burriana, Catarroja and Acero, clubs which, for those who aren't totally familiar with the career of the best manager in the world, operate in regional leagues.

Paco Real's manifesto, in which he pledged improvements in fitness, tactics, organisation, discipline and set-pieces, took only a few days to earn him the nickname of Pavo Real — the Spanish for peacock.

The strutting, however, lasted one week after an initial 1-0 win in Seville. After that it was all down to ruffled feathers. Club president Arturo Tuzon, the man responsible for the club's economic recovery, resigned and claimed the decision had worked such wonders for his nerves that he gained half a stone within a week.

International full-back Quique Flores announced he wasn't "psychologically fit" to play. Other players grumbled about Real's methods. Melchor Hoyos stepped in as interim president, while other directors and ex-directors such as Francisco Roig started setting up caravans outside the Luis Casanova stadium on match days to promote themselves as candidates for the presidential seat. "For a Champion Valencia" is Roig's slogan.

Unfortunately, the side which had lost only two league games when Hiddink was put out to pasture, just wasn't up to the standards set by the best boss in the world. A goalless draw at home to Real Sociedad, a 3-1 defeat in the regional derby against Albacete (despite an early goal), a comprehensive 4-0 home defeat by Barcelona, which provoked demonstrations and rude words outside the ground, and a 1-0 defeat in Zaragoza. Total: three points and two goals in five games and Valencia down to ninth place. The Peacock was slaughtered for Christmas and, after flirting with Vujadin Boskov and Uli Stielike, the board named Hector Nunez as the replacement.

Born in Uruguay on May 8, 1936, Nunez was signed by Valencia at 20 and in six seasons scored 29 goals in 121 league games on the right wing. He then wound down with Mallorca and Levante before starting coaching at Calvo Sotelo in the 1970-71 season. His main claims to fame have been spells with Rayo Vallecano, Atletico Madrid, Nacional of Montevideo and the Costa Rican national team. His challenge now is simply to do better than the best coach in the world.

Other managerial changes — Felipe Mesones at struggling Valladolid and Emilio Cruz fighting to retain the job at Atletico Madrid — almost fall into the routine category. But the change at Osasuna has more historical significance. The Pamplona club is renowned as one of the most coherent in Spanish football and their sound finances allowed them to be included with Barcelona, Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao in the short list of clubs exempted by the authorities from conversion into Limited Companies.

Missing . . . Osasuna striker Jan Urban.

Pedro Maria Zabalza had become an institution. The former Osasuna, Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao player had been in charge of the youth scheme before promotion to the first team dug-out in the 1986-87 season.

He saved them from relegation that year and in the six subsequent seasons Osasuna only once finished outside the top 10. European football was a dream come true and players such as Michael Robinson and Sammy Lee only have good words for the club.

But the season has not been a happy one for the Navarran club. The two-month absence of Polish striker Jan Urban didn't help. His compatriot Jacek Ziober only agreed to sign because Montpellier needed the fee. And too many opponents seemed to work out that a few positional changes could wreak havoc with Osasuna's man-for-man marking.

Zabalza, realising that reinforcements were urgently required, pulled off a coup by persuading Barcelona to loan him their Danish-born striker Thomas Christiansen, even though Sevilla, Racing Santander, Sporting Gijon, Atletico Madrid and Lleida had made overtures.

Christiansen's hopes of making the World Cup squad had been splintered by two consecutive fractures in the same foot and he was eager to resume First Division football. Johan Cruyff justified his decision with "the excellent relationship we have always had with Zabalza". Off went Thomas to Pamplona to make his debut against fellow tail-enders Logrones. After a 3-1 defeat, Zabalza announced he was quitting. His assistant, Enrique Martin, has taken over.

Real Madrid's managerial problems are different. Financial limitations have extended the club's patience with Benito Floro but the embarrassing fact is that members of the Real family are stealing the silverware. Jorge Valdano (below left) has gone to Tenerife and mugged Real on the threshold of glory in the last two seasons. Now Mariano Garcia Remon has slid another stiletto between the Real ribs.

The name might ring distant bells if your memory goes back to the 1970s. He joined Real as a 16-year-old in 1966 and after spells on loan to Talavera and Oviedo, made the first team in 1971. He might have won more than two caps for Spain had it not been for a sequence of serious injuries — including cruciate ligament damage — which eventually handed the Real jersey to Miguel Angel.

He then took over as coach of Real's Youth team and, after leading them to three league titles, was promoted to the reserve side. A three-year spell resulted in Real Madrid B being promoted to the Second Division and consolidating.

Garcia Remon began to earn respect and Sporting Gijon preferred him to the Lleida manager Mane when they were shopping for a new man last summer.

Gijon, condemned to sell to survive, were expected to suffer and nobody dreamed that the side of little-known youngsters plucked from the club's soccer school at Mareo would hit third spot in mid-December. Garcia Remon drew satisfaction from ending Real's nine-match unbeaten run with an epic 2-1 win in El Molinon and the pundits feel that both he and Valdano are now firm candidates for future occupation of the Bernabeu dug-out.

In the meantime neither Garcia Ramon nor the youngsters nicknamed The Yoghurt Gang are milking their success. They are all aware that last season Sporting hit third place early on and started 1993 in seventh position and among the UEFA Cup hopefuls. Their hopes were then curdled by a run of just six points from 15 games in which they scored 12 goals and conceded 34. Only a late revival sparked by the arrival of Christiansen, on loan from Barcelona, saved them from the relegation play-offs.

Cruyff: football only

TRY keeping Johan Cruyff out of the news. While he was making the headlines in Holland during his yes-no interlude with the national team, he gained the same publicity in Spain due to his dictatorial attitude.

Annoyed at the home points dropped against tail-enders Lleida and Logrones he fined the whole squad £750 and prohibited them from all extra-curricular activities, such as the "Fantastic" programme they produce for *TVE*, promotion appearances and even the language classes laid on by the club.

Julio Salinas (right) responded: "Others have families to occupy their spare time, but what is a single bloke supposed to do?'

Cruyff's reaction was to tell him his contract would not be renewed unless he toed the line and Spain's World Cup striker has not played a game since.

Maguy on song

LIFE is a bag of surprises at Atletico Madrid but eyebrows went even higher than usual when Jesus Gil announced that he personally was signing a midfielder.

Boui, we were told his name was. An Ivory Coast player. Could he mean Sam Abouo?

"No," said Gil, "Wait a minute and I'll look it up in this magazine. Ah yes. Serge Alain Maguy. M-A-G-U-Y."

He later admitted that the signing was "a bit political" and not entirely unconnected with his appointment on the previous day as Consul for the Ivory Coast on the Costa del Sol.

It was an unfortunately informal start for what could prove to be an inspired signing. Maguy is skipper of the Ivory Coast side which beat Ghana in the 1992 African Nations Cup final and has 70 caps to his name. He's an exceptionally gifted left-footed midfielder who, if given time to adapt, could make an impact.

If he manages to oust the Brazilian Moacir, the Pole Kosecki, the Mexican Luis Garcia and the Paraguayan Benitez from the three berths for foreign players, he could become a rare African success in the Spanish league where the Rayo Vallecano goalkeeper Wilfred Agbonovare and the Racing Santander midfielder Mutiu Adepoju wave the Nigerian flat. Watch out, though, for a third Nigerian, Christopher Ohenhen, who is playing a key role for Second Division leaders Compostela.

Declining interests

SPAIN will re-start the European campaign next month with only two of their six entries on the starting blocks. Barcelona are leading Monaco, Galatasaray and Moscow Spartak in the Champions League while Real Madrid take on Paris St Germain hoping to avenge last season's defeat.

But Spanish interest in the UEFA Cup has ended. After Valencia had been thrashed 7-0 in Karlsruhe, Deportivo La Coruna were unlucky to lose by a double 1-0 to an off-form Eintracht Frankfurt who were outplayed during all but a few minutes of the three hours of football. Tenerife produced a top-class performance to beat Juventus 2-1 in the Canaries but it was insufficient to overhaul the 3-0 defeat suffered in Turin.

Atletico Madrid made another graceless exit. At the time of writing, Jesus Gil is still contemplating legal action against UEFA and claiming £7.5million compensation for an "illegal" elimination by OFI Crete via a penalty kick which did not cross the line. Relations between Atletico and UEFA reached an all-time low after last season's Cup-winners Cup semi-final against Parma when the Spanish team was denied a clear penalty which could have put them into the Wembley final. In both cases the referees have been German.

Atletico have been encouraged to begin proceedings in the civil courts by Freddy Rumo, the Swiss lawyer who was formerly vice-president of UEFA and who was also responsible for the law suit filed by the Marseille president Bernard Tapie following their expulsion. Tapie backtracked realising his path could lead to major problems for French football, but Gil claims he will not back down.

RESULTS

PRIMERA DIVISION

La Coruna	17	10	5	2	21	5	25
Barcelona	17	10	3	4	33	18	23
Sporting Gijon	17	10	2	5	23	17	22
Athletic Bilbao	17	9	3	5	30	21	21
Real Madrid	17	9	3	5	26	17	21
Sevilla	17	7	5	5	24	16	19
Albacete	17	5	8	4	24	22	18
Real Sociedad	17	8	4	6	23	24	18
Valencia	17	7	4	6	19	21	18
Atletico Madrid	17	5	7	5	28	23	17
Racing Santander	17	7	3	7	18	17	17
Real Zaragoza	17	6	4	7	25	24	16
Oviedo	17	5	6	6	14	22	16
Rayo Vallecano	17	6	3	8	24	29	15
Tenerife	17	6	3	8	21	29	15
Logrones	17	4	6	7	23	26	14
Celta	17	4	6	7	14	21	14
Osasuna	17	4	3	10	15	26	11
Valladolid	17	3	5	9	11	24	11
Lieda	17	3	3	11	10	24	9

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

WEEKEND

ATLETICO MADRID 0
LA CORUNA 1 (Djukic 65 pen). **Att:** 30,000.

RAYO VALLECANO 2 (Hugo Sanchez 30 pen, 83 pen)
BARCELONA 4 (Amor 20, 77, Koeman 37 pen, 59). **Att:** 10,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Guerrero 71)
OVIEDO 1 (Rivas 67). **Att:** 30,000.

VALENCIA 0
REAL SOCIEDAD 0. **Att:** 40,000.

CELTA 2 (Andrijasevic 24, Losada 31)
SEVILLA 1 (Suker 82 pen). **Att:** 16,000.

SPORTING GIJON 2 (Oscar 61, Juanele 82 pen)
REAL MADRID 1 (Prosinecki 56). **Att:** 19,000.

RACING SANTANDER 4 (Quique Setien 26, 51 pen, 75 pen, Mutiu 39, Pineda 45)
VALLADOLID 1 (Alberto 51). **Att:** 18,000.

TENERIFE 1 (Pinilla 45)
OSASUNA 0. **Att:** 15,000.

LOGRONES 2 (Villanova 45, Salenko 79)
ALBACETE 2 (Menendez 53, Zalazar 76). **Att:** 8,000.

LLEIDA 0
REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Higuera 19). **Att:** 9,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

MIDWEEK

SPANISH CUP — 5TH ROUND

LOGRONES 3
LLEIDA 1

REAL ZARAGOZA 1
OSASUNA 0

REAL SOCIEDAD 3
SEVILLA 3

WEEKEND

VALLADOLID 2 (Alberto 3, 23)
TENERIFE 0. **Att:** 7,000.

OVIEDO 1 (Jankovic 35)
ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Pedro 45 pen). **Att:** 9,321.

LA CORUNA 1 (Bebeto 90)
RACING SANTANDER 0. **Att:** 22,000.

BARCELONA 2 (Romario 23, Koeman 50 pen)
LOGRONES 2 (Salenko 25, Erana 36). **Att:** 70,000.

SEVILLA 1 (Abelardo og 75)
SPORTING GIJON 2 (Oscar 14, Miner 57). **Att:** 38,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Carlos Xavier 25, Alejo og 82)
CELTA 1 (Losada 69). **Att:** 22,000.

ALBACETE 3 (Antonio 37, Menendez 69, Zalazar 89)
VALENCIA 1 (Pizzi 5). **Att:** 14,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 4 (Higuera 41, 66, Pardeza 45, Poyet 84)
RAYO VALLECANO 1 (Hugo Sanchez 88). **Att:** 8,000.

OSASUNA 1 (Luque 82)
LLEIDA 0. **Att:** 22,000.

REAL MADRID 2 (Zamorano 60, 75)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Garitano 79). **Att:** 95,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

MIDWEEK

SPANISH CUP — 5TH ROUND

ELIDO 1
REAL BETIS 3

TOLEDO 1
REAL OVIEDO 1

SPORTING GIJON 3
REAL VALLADOLID 1

TAJAVERA 1
CELTA DE VIGO 2

MERIDA 0
ELBAR 0

WEEKEND

VALENCIA 0
BARCELONA 4 (Stoichkov 30, Bakero 33, 74, Koeman pen 86). **Att:** 50,000.

REAL MADRID 0
SEVILLA 0. **Att:** 85,000.

SPORTING 3 (Sani 44, Juanale 62, Oscar 64)
REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Kodro 26, 82 pen). **Att:** 18,000.

CELTA 1 (Menendez 45)
ALBACETE 4 (Salva 33, Dos Santos 6, 85, Coco 90). **Att:** 15,000.

LOGRONES 2 (Poyatos 50, Romero 56)
REAL ZARAGOZA 2 (Pardeza 23, Esnaider 74). **Att:** 9,000.

RAYO VALLECANO 1 (Rodriguez 32)
OSASUNA 0. **Att:** 8,000.

LLEIDA 1 (Pares 20)
REAL VALLADOLID 0. **Att:** 8,000

TENERIFE 0
LA CORUNA 1 (Alfredo 56). **Att:** 20,000.

RACING SANTANDER 1 (Setlien pen 66)
OVIEDO 2 (Carlos 21, Jokanovic 90). At: 19,131.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 3 (Urrutia 20, Garitano pen 69, Guerrero 90)
ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Caminero 18, Kosecki 49). **Att:** 36,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

WEEKEND

LA CORUNA 2 (Donato 10 pen, Bebeto 70)
LLEIDA 0. **Att:** 15,000.

BARCELONA 1 (Ferrer 62)
CELTA 0. **Att:** 70,000.

SEVILLA 1 (Suker 10)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 3 (Guerrero 27, 29, Valverde 85). **Att:** 25,000.

ALBACETE 3 (Zalazar 19 pen, Nilson 66, Menendez 88)
SPORTING GIJON 1 (Juanele 5). **Att:** 14,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Luis Perez 3, Kodro 64)
REAL MADRID 0. **Att:** 22,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Pardeza 38)
VALENCIA 0. **Att:** 18,000.
● *Valencia appoint Uruguayan Hector Nunez as coach.*

ATLETICO MADRID 4 (Caminero 34, Luis Garcia 45, Pirri 46, Kosecki 68)
RACING SANTANDER 0. **Att:** 25,000.

REAL OVIEDO 1 (Jankovic 8)
TENERIFE 0. **Att:** 18,000.

VALLADOLID 1 (Amavisca 36)
RAYO VALLECANO 3 (Hugo Sanchez 8, 57 pen, Luis Delgado 47). **Att:** 9,000.

OSASUNA 1 (Urban 61)
LOGRONES 3 (Poyatos 25, Salenko 51, 57). **Att:** 15,000.

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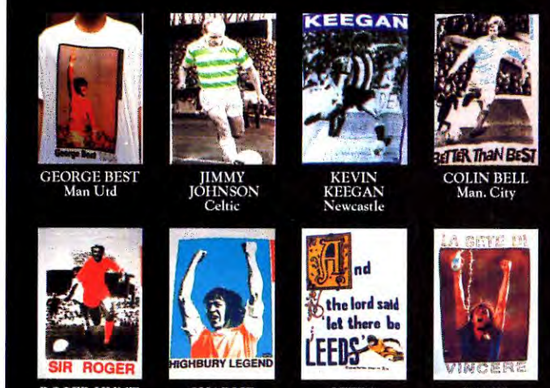

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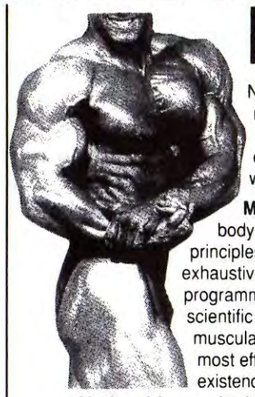

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FRANCE

BY ANDRE DUCLOS

Young bloods give hope for the future

THESE ARE not exactly the best of times for French football . . . with France out of the World Cup, Monaco beaten by Barcelona in the Champions League and Marseille forced to part with player after player.

To make matters worse, for Marseille fans in particular, Alen Boksic, an immediate idol at Lazio, and the Ghanaian-born Marcel Desailly, at Milan, have adapted themselves to *Calcio* superbly.

One consolation for whoever happens to take over the national team in succession to Gerard Houllier is that at least there are a number of promising new figures and faces in the current French Championship. Christophe Dugarry of Bordeaux, for example.

This lively striker, still only 21, has been at the club for 11 years and is hardly *le dernier cri*, since he made his debut as long ago as 1989, and had 69 league appearances behind him when the season started.

But in those games, the Under-21 international had scored a mere nine goals. This season he looks a great deal more incisive, and has surely been among the best strikers in the league.

Not bad for a player who was not even expected to be in the regular first team line-up when the season started. Even if his and Bordeaux's European ambitions did come to an end in December.

His team-mate, midfielder Zinedine Zidane, has had an excellent season too, and should do better still in 1994. He too made his First Division debut in 1989, but it was for his original club, Cannes. Born in Marseille, he also is 21-years-old, lively and intelligent.

Monaco's Youri Djorkaeff, another midfielder, son of a former well-known player, is 25 now and going strong. Born in Lyon, he began with Grenoble and went on to Strasbourg, before joining Monaco in 1990. He is a full international and often scores goals.

Nantes may be a club often in economic trouble, but they continue to produce good players. Such as Karembeu and Ouedec, two more who have been among the most prominent this season.

Striker Nicolas Ouedec has been with Nantes, whom he joined from Lorient, for over seven years now, but he is still only 20. An Under-21 international, his record at the start of this season was a goal in every three league games, and he looks capable of doing better than that.

Christian Karembeu has played midfield for France, and hopes to get back in the team. Born in New Caledonia, he is just 23-years-old and has spent his whole career with Nantes, making his debut in May, 1991.

Mind you, if you listen to the former national manager, Michel Hidalgo (below), you would not feel much moved to watch any French football, so pessimistic is he, so convinced that root and branch changes are needed.

"Beautiful play exists no more," he exclaims. "People are happy with too little. They forget that it is entertainment that matters."

In Hidalgo's view, a noted coach who once said that only a couple of his whole French international team could carry out the simplest manoevure, nothing has moved for a year. He has made suggestions but nobody has acted on them.

"Now it is clear. After this catastrophic result [against Bulgaria] we have nothing," he said.

The national team, he agrees, stands for French football as a whole: "And now we are naked! If we are to keep pro football alive, we need the economic world, and there is a risk it will escape us!"

But when he speaks of beauty and of entertainment, Hidalgo complains, people throw the word "realism" back in his face. He realised people are thinking of him as old hat and for that reason he lays down his arms.

"There is actually a pollution of football. Evolution must come from coaches and players. It is for them to take their responsibility!"

He was reminded that people reproached him when he left the French Football Federation to become one of the managers and coaches who worked for Bernard Tapie at Marseille.

It wasn't for money, Hidalgo insists. But at the FFF he had so many forces against him. It was difficult to work when he had to contend with half the delegates, the distracts, the regional leagues, who had been fighting to have him appointed just six or seven years earlier.

He isn't bitter, he maintains; just a little sad. "The actual system is one I don't like. But there is also the matter of age. I tell young people that revolution is a fine thing. Not to smash things up but to manipulate, to build."

But even Hidalgo must surely approve the likes of Ouedec, the symbol of the future. Two years ago, when both of them were playing for Nantes, Marcel Desailly shared a room with Ouedec.

Now, says the young striker, Desailly is "on a different planet," with Milan. "Here at Nantes," he says, where he arrived at the age of 14, "we don't turn out stereotypes.

"Generally, there is the pass to the midfielders who give it to the wingers and they in turn then cross for the number nine. We learn the opposite of all that.

"Here, we give free play to the players' intuition."

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

Paris St Germain	21	14	5	2	29	1	33
Bordeaux	21	11	5	5	28	16	27
Marseille	20	11	5	4	27	17	27
Auxerre	21	10	4	7	29	16	24
Monaco	21	8	8	5	33	22	24
Nantes	21	7	10	4	21	13	24
Montpellier	20	8	7	5	24	19	23
Cannes	21	8	7	6	25	26	23
Strasbourg	21	6	10	5	25	22	22
Sochaux	21	6	10	5	22	20	22
Metz	21	6	8	7	20	20	20
St Etienne	21	5	9	7	19	18	19
Lyon	21	7	5	9	20	25	19
Lens	21	4	10	7	17	20	18
Martigues	21	4	9	8	22	31	17
Caen	21	7	3	11	14	30	17
Lille	21	3	10	8	20	30	16
Le Havre	21	2	11	8	14	25	15
Toulouse	21	3	9	9	14	30	15
Angers	21	3	7	11	19	32	13

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

WEEKEND

PARIS SG 1 (Weah 88)
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 24,000.

LENS 1 (R. Boli 37)
BORDEAUX 0. **Att:** 21,705.

METZ 1 (N'Diaye 52)
MONACO 1 (Djorkaeff 14). **Att:** 7,886.

MARTIGUES 0
MARSEILLE 3 (da Silva 25, Prunier 40, 70). **Att:** 10,000.
● *Brazilian striker Anderson da Silva scored on his debut for Marseille.*

AUXERRE 5 (Mahe 4, Vahirua 6, 77, Laslandes 79, C. Martins 83)
LILLE 0. **Att:** 5,000.

LE HAVRE 0
NANTES 0. **Att:** 6,582.

CANNES 2 (Priou 22, Madar 69)
TOULOUSE 1 (Ferrer 33). **Att:** 6,000.

SOCHAUX 2 (Caveglia 53 pen, Vos 90)
MONTPELLIER 1 (Divert 59). **Att:** 2,823.

LYON 2 (Pele 26, Maurice 44)
STRASBOURG 1 (Leboeuf 28). **Att:** 10,000.

ANGERS 2 (Masson 30, Daury 39)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 3,309.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

WEEKEND

LILLE 0
PARIS SG 2 (Rai 34, Gravelaine 89). **Att:** 10,526.

BORDEAUX 2 (Paille 42, Croci 69)
LE HAVRE 1 Tiehi 87). **Att:** 11,000.

TOULOUSE 2 (Lada 56, Debeve 89)
MONACO 1 (Djorkaeff pen 40). **Att:** 7,859.

MARSEILLE 3 (Rui Barros 19, Libbra 69, Dutuel 74)
CANNES 1 (Madar 71). **Att:** 20,000.

MONTPELLIER 1 (Bonnissel 51)
AUXERRE 0. **Att:** 9,000.

STRASBOURG 2 (Farina 36, 56)
LENS 0. **Att:** 11,051.

SOCHAUX 1 (Vos 89)
MARTIGUES 0. **Att:** 3,000.

CAEN 1 (Salaun 6)
LYON 0. **Att:** 13,247.

ANGERS 1 (El Hadaoui 9)
METZ 2 (Serredzum 2, Galtier og 84). **Att:** 4,065.

ST ETIENNE 1 (Wohfahrt 68)
NANTES 1 (N'Doram 14). **Att:** 9,431.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

WEEKEND

LENS 1 (Boli 1)
LILLE 1 (Garcia 83). At: 15,694.

NANTES 4 (Slasia 1, 3, N'Doram 41, Ouedec 87)
TOULOUSE 0. **Att:** 8,000.

MONACO 1 (Djorakeff pen 25)
ST ETIENNE 1 (Moravcik38). tt: 3,000.

LE HAVRE 1 (Tiehi 87)
MARSEILLE 3 (Casoni 4, da Silva 37 pen, 43). **Att:** 10,140.

CANNES 2 (Priou 64 pen, 85)
BORDEAUX 1 (Dugarry 32). **Att:** 5,000,

PARIS SG 2 (Le Guen 16, Ginola 83)
STRASBOURG 0. **Att:** 28,000.

MARTIGUES 1 (Tholot 35)
MONTPELLIER 1 (Asanovic 41). **Att:** 3,500.

AUXERRE 1 (Vahirua 48)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 6,000.

LYON 1 (Ngotty 30)
ANGERS 1 (El Hadaoui 25). **Att:** 10,000.

METZ1 (Hadzibegic og 40)
SOCHAUX 1 (Caveglia 88). **Att:** 5,434.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

WEEKEND

SOCHAUX 1 (Vos 6)
PARIS SG 2 (Roche 15, Gravelaine 87). **Att:** 9,153.

MARSEILLE 3 (Boghossian 18, da Silva 32, Dutuel 71)
NANTES 1 (J-M. Ferri 14). **Att:** 32,000.

BORDEAUX 1 (Dugarry 26)
MONACO 0. **Att:** 15,000.

ANGERS 2 (Zago 28, El Hadaoui 44)
AUXERRE 2 (Laslandes 55, Coccard 90). **Att:** 6,242.

STRASBOURG 1 (Keller 43)
TOULOUSE 0. **Att:** 11,341.

MONTPELLIER 0
LENS 0. **Att:** 7,288.

LILLE 1 (Bonalair 75)
CANNES 0. **Att:** 5,270.

METZ 0
LYON 1 (Maurice 64). **Att:** 6,049.

ST ETIENNE 0
LE HAVRE 0. **Att:** 9,776.

CAEN 4 (Mostovoi 23, 43, Cauet 53, Nouma 56)
MARTIGUES 1 (Tholot 75). **Att:** 13,493.

WORLD PRESS

THIS month's selection includes editorials, from around the world, on the crises in French and English football, the possible World Cup return of Cameroon veteran Roger Milla, the Dutch invasion of Japan and why Swiss footballers feel they do not get the recognition they deserve.

THE SOWETAN (SOUTH AFRICA)

ROGER MILLA hopes to become football's oldest international in this summer's World Cup.

Milla will be 42 next year. Stanley Matthews, who played English League football from 17 to 50, was 41 when he was recalled by England in 1956 for a 4-2 win over Brazil.

Dino Zoff was also 41 when he kept goal for Italy for the 112th and last time in a 2-0 defeat to Switzerland in 1983. He had been 40 when he captained Italy to World Cup success in 1982.

Milla, the oldest player to score a World Cup goal in the 1990 finals in Italy when he was 38, is coming out of retirement and hopes to play for Cameroon in the United States.

Returning . . . Roger Milla.

He also has been contacted by Tonnerre Yaounde to play in the 1994 Cameroon championship.

Cameroon president Paul Biya, who insisted on Milla playing in Italy, asked him last month to get ready for the US in case he was needed.

Cameroon excited fans with a run to the quarter-finals in 1990 when they were beaten by England, but have struggled since then.

SPORT ZURICH (SWITZERLAND)

THE scenario is always the same and cannot apparently be eradicated: Whenever Swiss sportsmen and women return empty-handed from big international competitions, including the Olympics, we hear the usual convenient, unspecified excuses addressed to nobody in particular . . . the sport is simply in politics and not recognised in society, it ranks low in esteem and nobody does anything to improve it.

Another problem was highlighted recently by Roberto Di Matteo, the former Aarau libero of Italian descent, raised in Switzerland and now earning his keep with Lazio in Rome.

"What annoyed me in Switzerland is the lack of acknowledgment. As a professional footballer there, you are nobody," he said.

But why is a football pro not accepted in Switzerland? How can his image be improved? The players and managers perhaps should be setting a better example. They are rightly criticised for not accepting the rules and arguing with the referee.

Or the club presidents who, through mismanagement, plunge the clubs into bankruptcy and closure, who are late in paying the players' salaries, or as in France and Poland, manipulated results thus corrupting the sport, and who then refuse to co-operate with the press.

Or maybe the fault lies with the media who ignore the facts and keep quiet about scandals in the mistaken belief that they are helping the clubs, football and sport in general by presenting a "healthy" picture to the public.

Football has its own responsibility and stamps its own prestige in society. After all, it only presents that image which it has itself created.

O PUBLICE (PORTUGAL)

THE English manager's resignation was not a surprise. People, now, say that a new football is required in England and that everything has evolved — so, why not soccer?

It is recognised that football, nowadays, is no longer the sport people used to play and watch in the old industrial regions. There is now a new football which draws from the culture of all peoples in the world.

But Graham Taylor never had a real chance and with all England against him there was no other way open but the resignation which was not so formal as should be expected — he left through the back door. Now, other heads, we are told, must roll as well, that of Peter Swales, the Manchester City chariman, that of Charles Hughes if not that of Graham Kelly the *generalisimo* among the plotters in English football.

Who will become the new manager? Names, plenty of them, are thrown around for people to look at — Terry Venables, a man of little substance, Don Howe, a refugee from the past, and club managers such as Glenn Hoddle, Howard Wilkinson and Kevin Keegan. But we do know that none of the names mentioned will be the new manager. If Steve Coppell does not take the mantle of English football, then Gerry Francis will.

FRANCE FOOTBALL

ARSENE WENGER, potential new manager of the French national team, actual manager of Monaco, an Alsation who never played top class football, says: "Before all the latest goings on, I didn't think French football was in a grave crisis. I knew we urgently needed to give our sport credibility, through everyone's behaviour.

"I didn't think it's image had deteriorated that much at international level and above all I didn't think there would be such a confrontation, such a trial of strength, after the elimination of the French national team.

"The fights between clans which have broken out are very disagreeable. All the more so when at this moment it's more important to present a united front, give an image of solidarity.

"There's no crisis so far as the deep quality of our football is concerned, or the quality of our players. There is a crisis, a flux, in so far as it involves everyone's prerogatives and in the desire of certain people to grab power.

"The actual flux is making everybody hold forth about everything and this is what is giving the impression of a crisis. There would be a crisis, a real one, if all the clubs were about to go bust, if there weren't any players. But there is a whole generation of good young players. It wouldn't need much, clear structures and well defined powers, for all the difficulties to disappear very fast."

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (HOLLAND)

IT could be argued that Japan is going Dutch — in a soccer sense, of course! This is certainly the case for Jubilo Iwata, the club newly promoted to the J.League.

Hans Ooft, the ex-manager of Japan, has been appointed manager, Gerald Vanenburg, the ex-PSV and Holland midfielder, is one of the players, and to strengthen the squad, feelers are out for an old team-mate of Vanenburg with PSV — Jerry de Jong.

Preparing . . . Gerald Vanenburg.

Says Vanenburg: "I know Hans Ooft. It is super for us that the club have signed him up as the new manager.

"We have go to be ready for the 'big league'. The difference is so great. For instance, we lost 2-1 to Grampus Eight, Dutchman Dido Havenaar's club, plus, of course, Gary Lineker. We were not surprised. The future is the real thing. And I believe Hans is just the man to help us go forward."

For Ooft this is not the first time with this club. Only the name has changed, thanks to the start of the professional league in Japan. In 1982 Ooft was the manager when the club was known as Yamaha FC.

HOLLAND . . . . . .

Advocaat the man for the job

FOOTBALL is a funny game. Take the Johan Cruyff affair as an example.

Franz Beckenbauer was not at all surprised about financial and commercial problems resulting in Cruyff rejecting the Dutch team job.

He said: "If you are trying to do a deal with top people such as Maradona, Pele and Cruyff you are faced with problems. For instance, I had to change my car when I became manager of West Germany. But the matter wasn't settled for a long time."

Michel Platini said: "Why is it always the same with Holland?

"They can't seem to solve this kind of problem. For the last World Cup they had the strongest team in the world, but these kind of problems were there."

Cruyff owns a company that produces clothing — including tracksuits. He wanted to wear his own clothing, even though he knew the Dutch FA had their own sponsors and that caused the problem.

But since the draw for the World Cup finals, Dick Advocaat (above) is obviously the best man for the job. The Dutch need somebody capable of forcing them to fight all the way. And Advocaat is, and has always been, a fighter.

Cruyff has a lot of friends in Holland. But there is a feeling that the Dutch FA — in this case led by the chairman of the new committee for professional football, Jos Staatsen — wanted to reward Advocaat for getting Holland to the United States and the finals.

Advocaat said: "My job was to get Holland into the finals, and if so Cruyff would take over. Yes, I would have been happy to have gone to America for the Dutch FA. But not, repeat not, as an assistant. Those days are over.

"The break with Ruud Gullit taught me a lot. I believed I had a good understanding with Ruud. But . . . after Poland-Holland, Ruud telephoned me with congratulations. After the 2-0 win against England Ruud was recorded on my answer-phone.

"At last, I thought, that was nice, but on reflection I felt a bit different. After all Ruud dropping out of the squad for the Holland-England game might have cost me my job!"

Football is, indeed, a funny game . . . and two Dutch coaches are set to prove it this summer.

Ex-Ajax and Real Madrid manager Leo Beenhakker — who coached Holland at Italia '90 — has taken over as manager of Saudi Arabia, and Wim Jansen has become his assistant.

Jansen had been general manager of Feyenoord, but made it known that he wished to return to coaching. It was widely known also that Cruyff wanted him as his No. 2, if he had taken the Dutch job.

Now, with great irony, Beenhakker and Jansen will guide Saudi Arabia in the US in the summer . . . kicking off against Holland in Washington!

Football, as we have said, is a funny game. Different people, different ideas.

Take the case of Jan Wouters, for instance. The 33-year-old was about to sign a new contract with Bayern Munich for just one more season when PSV Eindhoven stepped in and bought him for two and a half seasons.

Aad De Mos is rebuilding PSV as just over a year ago their plans were centred around getting rid of their veteran players. Before he retired chairman Jacques Ruts made it clear that as far as football matters were concerned De Mos was the boss.

That's the way it is working out and as Hans Van Breukelen, the PSV and ex-holland keeper who played with Wouters at FC Utrecht a few years ago, says: "This transfer gives PSV a kick. Jan is the right person to rescue the club.

"What must be achieved is a better balance and better quality players coming out of our own squad. Jan is just the player to pass on his own knowledge to younger players."

ERIC NICHOLLS

AUSTRIA . . . . . .

Salzburg reach last eight

THE toast of the country are Austria Salzburg, who had never previously made an impact on any European competition, yet reached the quarter-finals of the UEFA Cup after a glorious win over Sporting Lisbon.

Two-nil down from the first leg and drawing 0-0 at half-time in the return, the Austrians levelled the aggregate scores in injury time and nailed the Portuguese favourites in extra time to the delight of a 13,000 capacity crowd.

Coach Otto Baric has assembled a team mainly composed of "oldies" mostly discarded by other clubs, notably Rapid Vienna, where he once coached.

Salzburg now look forward to meeting Eintracht Frankfurt — clashes between Austrian and German sides always guarantee fireworks with another full house assured.

In the championship the qualification phase was completed at the end of November.

Salzburg finished second, two points behind Austria Vienna, the title holders, who have become "winter champions." They ended the half-time programme in glorious style, winning the last seven games on the trot.

Third-placed Admira/Wacker were delighted with their new forward Harald Cerny (left) when the former Bayern Munich starlet scored his first goal for the club to earn a draw with Sturm Graz.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

LUXEMBOURG . . .

Slowly getting better

LUXEMBOURG is not normally a footballing nation to be feared. They probably have the worst world record of any nation . . . but there are signs of improvement.

True, recent 1-0 defeats to Iceland, Greece and Hungary suggest the same old story, but in Budapest they should have come away with at least a point.

Manager Paul Phillip remains undaunted and has introduced new players to the national squad.

Patrick Morrocutti, a young striker still playing in his native Luxembourg with Union Sportive, probably deserves a chance with a bigger club abroad. Ralph Ferron from Avenir Beggen, Stephano Fanelli from F91 Dudelange, and Manuel Cardoni from Jeunesse also are new names.

The goalkeeping choice of Paul Koch of Avenir Beggen, the most talented player in the Grand Duchy, probably has pushed out veteran John Van Rijswick of Union Sportive and with new full-back Serge Rohmann of Aris Bonnevoie it is hoped that Luxembourg can improve and convert the chances they create.

On the league front CS Grevenmacher are the in-form side. A 2-0 win against Union Sportive added to their belief and Marc Thome, a national squad player, is scoring well for them. Union, Jeunesse Esch and Avenir Beggen will all be battling it out for the championship.

Of the new clubs in the National Division, CS Petange are doing well although Spora Luxembourg look relegation candidates having conceded over 30 goals already this season.

All three representatives in Europe also went out early. Dudelange, in the Cup-winners Cup, to Maccabi Haifa of Israel, 7-1 on aggregate; Avenir Beggen closely to Rosenborg, 3-0 on aggregate in the Champions Cup; and Union Sportive lost 5-0 to Portugal's Boavista in the UEFA Cup.

TIM BRICE

DENMARK . . . . . .

Silkeborg sit pretty

UNFASHIONABLE Silkeborg were top of the Danish Superliga at the halfway stage of the season — thanks to the inspiration of veteran Swedish coach Bo Johansson.

The club from the little town on the west coast of Jutland have surprised a few people with consistent displays all through the autumn and finished a point clear of OB Odense.

Johansson, 51, has instilled tremendous teamwork and self-discipline in the side, and himself. He said: "I've been very pleased with the way the team has played and much of it is down to positive thinking.

"I really believe in that. Sometimes in the dressing room I want to have a go at the team. But I hold myself back, because unless it is constructive criticism, it is always counter-productive."

Johansson won two Swedish titles as coach of Osters Vaxjo in 1980 and '81 before travelling abroad to work for clubs in Norway and Greece. His last job before joining Silkeborg was two years as trainer of the Iceland national team.

It would be an astonishing feat to bring Silkeborg their first ever Danish title, but it is not inconceivable, even though finances dictated the sale of international defender Jakob Kjeldbjerg to Chelsea.

They will begin the spring half of the season with 13 points, the total from the first period of the season halved under the new system operating in the Danish league.

Two teams are relegated at Christmas, Viborg and Naestved, leaving eight clubs to battle it out in the spring. And just five points will separate Silkeborg from "bottom club" AGF when matches begin in March.

Viborg went down to the qualification league despite having the country's top scorer in Soren Frederiksen, who notched 13 of their 25 goals. The striker had a trial with Southampton at The Dell and is sure to move from Viborg before March.

Viborg lost their last match in the top flight 7-2 at home to resurgent FC Copenhagen, who must still be favourites to retain their title.

But Denmark's biggest club will lose their respected coach Benny Johansen when the season ends in the summer because he wants to try his luck abroad.

Falling attendances, down 16 per cent on the previous season, only helped him make that decision.

SWEDEN . . .

Ekstrom transfer puzzle

JOHNNY EKSTROM (right), whose contract has been cancelled by Italy's Reggiana, missed a chance to move to Portuguese club Belenenses.

Belenenses thought that they had the much-travelled 28-year-old striker all but signed, when the player suddenly backed off. The Portuguese are blaming his agent Borje Lantz.

Lantz, however, says that Belenenses were parading Ekstrom as their player, although there were details of the contract to be discussed.

Belenenses have now turned their attention to Johnny Rodlund, the out-of-favour striker of Norrkoping and a one-time trialist at Manchester United.

Hasse Backe's first signing for AIK Stockholm is Oster's stopper Jesper Jansson, who is widely tipped for a full cap in the near future. Oster have also lost former international midfielder Ulrik Jansson to Helsingborg, but are still hanging on to their star Stefan Landberg. He was recently a transfer target for IFK Gothenburg, who are also being linked with their former player Ekstrom.

Martin Dahlin expectedly became the Player of the Year, while Sweden coach Tommy Svensson was named as the Swedish sports leader of the year.

PENTTI HIETANEN

ICELAND . . . . . .

FORMER Aston Villa and Liverpool midfielder Ian Ross has been appointed coach of First Division club Keflavik.

Ross, who left his post as Huddersfield Town manager last summer, will be starting his second spell in Iceland having previously managed Valur to three League titles and two Cup finals.

He has been engaged to lead the club in the new season, which starts in April, and to guide them through next year's European competitions when Keflavik will represent Iceland in the UEFA Cup.

SWITZERLAND . . .

Gross profit for Grassopper

THE first phase of the championship ended with Grasshopper and Sion jointly top of the group of eight clubs who, after the winter break, dispute the championship play-offs.

Among the last four who dropped into the relegation pool are FC Zurich and Xamax Neutchatel. Zurich, fighting only two months earlier for the leadership, fell apart and team boss Kurt Jara is almost certain to lose his job.

By contrast Luzern saved themselves in the finishing straight by one point, rewarding their directors' decision to replace Hungarian coach Bertalan Bicskei with two old hands in former national team manager Paul Wolfisberg and German Timo Konietzka. Surprise team of the season are Grasshopper. Manager Christian Gross, at 39, the "rookie" among the seven Swiss bosses in the First Division, deserves the credit. Despite the loss of four key players, Gross, who has no track record as a coach, but plenty of playing experience, found the right blend of fighters and technicians.

The backbone is provided by five experienced veterans between 29 and 33 years of age. Exactly half the squad is composed of players who are either foreigners or naturalised Swiss.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

FINLAND . . . . . .

'Rum' will do for Kuusysi

KUUSYSI LAHTI have appointed a new coach in place of Antti Murinen. He is 37-year-old Jorma Kallio, a former midfielder at the club.

Kallio, nicknamed "Rum" has a tough re-building job ahead of him. The Kuusysi team, which has dominated the Finnish scene for a decade, has now split up. Their only current full international, defender Jari Kinnunen, has signed for Haka, while goal-getter Ismo Lius went back to HJK Helsinki.

Antti Murinen has taken over at Jaro. Keijo Voutilainen, the man who is often credited for making Kuusysi such a force, took Kuopio PS back to the Premier League at the first time of asking. They have a promising team and, with Voutilainen in charge, look capable of a few surprises next summer.

TPV Tampere have lost their influential Russians, Ivanov and Popovich, to local rivals Ilves. TPV thought that they had signed the players for a further two years, but the players claimed that they had only been loaned out by their "mother club", Moscow Spartak.

Djurgarden's new coach is Anders Gronhagen, a former international striker, best known for introducing Tomas Brolin to top-class soccer.

PENTTI HIETANEN

TABLES

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	18	13	4	1	45	19	30
Club Bruges	18	9	8	1	28	13	26
Charleroi	18	10	3	5	36	24	23
Seraing	18	8	7	3	29	16	23
Antwerp	18	7	8	3	24	17	22
Ekeren	18	7	6	5	27	23	20
Lommel	18	7	6	5	26	24	20
Mechelen	18	5	10	3	22	16	20
Ostende	18	5	10	3	26	23	20
Standard	18	7	5	6	21	13	19
Beveren	18	4	9	5	20	21	17
Gent	18	4	9	5	24	27	12
Liege	18	3	8	7	19	31	14
RWDM	18	4	4	10	18	29	12
Cercle Bruges	18	3	6	9	26	42	12
Lierse	18	2	8	8	15	27	12
Waregem	18	3	4	11	15	32	10
Genk	18	1	5	12	22	46	7

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Silkeborg	18	9	7	2	34	20	25
OB Odense	18	9	6	3	27	16	24
FC Copenhagen	18	10	2	6	32	22	22
Brondby	18	7	6	5	32	24	20
Lyngby	18	5	10	3	19	23	20
AaB Aalborg	18	4	9	5	28	25	17
Ikast	18	5	7	6	31	29	17
AGF Aarhus	18	5	5	8	30	31	15
Naestved	18	3	4	11	28	46	10
Viborg	18	3	4	11	25	50	10

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	17	14	2	1	47	9	30
Feyenoord	17	12	4	1	34	13	28
Vitesse	16	10	2	4	33	14	22
PSV	16	9	4	3	30	16	22
Roda JC	16	9	3	4	27	17	21
Willem II	17	8	3	6	28	20	19
NAC	16	8	2	6	34	24	18
FC Twente	16	7	3	6	23	19	17
GA Eagles	17	7	3	7	27	23	17
VVV	17	6	5	6	17	31	17
Heerenveen	17	5	5	7	17	31	15
Sparta	16	4	6	6	21	24	14
FC Utrecht	17	5	4	8	20	36	14
MVV	16	4	5	7	23	32	13
Volendam	16	4	2	10	21	31	10
FC Groningen	16	3	2	11	16	41	8
RKC	17	1	4	11	15	35	6
Cambuur	15	0	3	12	8	32	3

FINLAND
Final Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jazz Pori	29	17	7	5	67	33	58
MyPa Myllkoski	29	16	6	7	47	33	54
HJK Helsinki	29	15	4	10	34	26	49
Kuusysi Lahti	29	15	5	10	41	43	47
FinnPa Helsinki	29	13	7	9	46	35	46
TPV Tampere	29	10	8	11	37	39	38
RoPs Rovenemi	29	11	5	13	32	35	38
TPS Turku	29	9	5	15	31	39	22

NORWAY
Final Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenberg	22	14	5	3	47	30	47
Bodo Glimt	22	14	3	5	51	24	45
Lillestrom	22	13	3	6	47	26	42
Viking Stavanger	22	13	2	7	38	27	41
Hamarkam	22	10	3	9	42	39	33
Tromso	22	6	8	8	25	25	26
Brann Bergen	22	7	5	10	31	38	26
Kongsvinger	22	7	4	11	33	41	25
Start Kristiansand	22	6	5	11	26	29	23
Molde	22	5	7	10	23	36	22
Lyn Olso	22	6	4	12	39	53	22
Fyllingen	22	4	5	13	21	55	17

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shamrock Rov.	19	13	3	3	39	15	42
Cork City	19	11	4	4	37	19	37
Shelbourne	19	8	6	5	27	23	30
Galway Utd	18	8	5	5	26	24	29
Dundalk	19	7	6	6	23	17	27
Bohemians	19	7	6	6	20	15	27
Monaghan Utd.	19	8	3	8	26	23	27
Derry City	19	6	6	7	18	21	24
St Patrick's	19	4	9	6	21	21	21
Cobh Ramblers	19	4	4	11	17	29	16
Drogheda Utd	19	3	5	11	14	39	14
Limerick	18	2	7	9	13	35	13

SWEDEN
Final Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IFK Gothenburg	26	18	5	3	48	17	59
IFK Norrkoping	26	17	3	6	56	23	54
AIK Stockholm	26	14	4	8	49	43	46
Trelleborg	26	12	6	8	46	39	42
Halmstad	26	11	5	10	50	41	38
Hacken BK	26	11	4	11	44	49	37
Vasta Frolunda	26	11	4	11	38	45	37
Oster Vaxjo	26	10	6	10	43	34	36
Helsingborg	26	10	6	10	43	46	36
Malmo FF	26	10	5	11	43	38	35
Orebro	26	10	3	13	35	38	33
Degefors	26	6	5	15	32	54	23
Orgryte	26	5	6	15	26	44	21
Brage	26	4	4	18	26	68	16

NORWAY.....

Tough draw for Olsen's men

THE morning after the World Cup draw in Las Vegas, the Norwegian media agreed how awful the draw was. The Norwegian group, they said, was the "toughest, the most difficult and the most unfortunate" to play in.

National manager Egil Olsen said: "We were very unfortunate with our opponents but quite lucky with the venues. We were drawn into the worst group, but the draw has been completed and from now on the bare facts say that we face Italy, Ireland and Mexico.

"Italy are certainly among the best nations in the world. As we've managed good results against them in important matches before, they will be out for revenge and will not underestimate us.

"Ireland were the team I least wanted us to draw, simply because their style of play is most similar to our own. They might even be more simple and primitive than us and their team-work is their strength.

"I don't know much about Mexico but from their recent results I understand they are a very good side."

But Norway had a tough qualifiying group playing England, Holland and Poland.

"It is a similar situation," said Olsen, "but we won that one, didn't we?"

Norway's friendlies against Ireland and Mexico will now be cancelled and new opponents found.

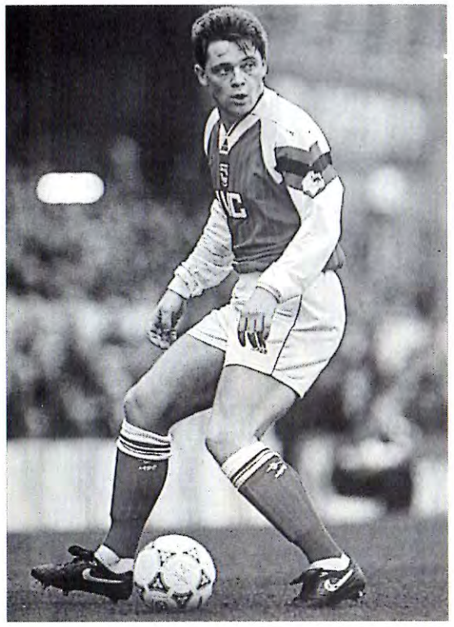
Players abroad who are not playing first-team football are certainly in a difficult situation as regards making the squad.

Pal Lydersen of Arsenal (below) and Frank Strandli of Leeds have already been promised by their clubs that they will be allowed to go home on loan in the spring. They hope to qualify by putting in good performances with their old clubs.

The domestic clubs have already started the build-up to the new season and many of the players have changed clubs.

Lillestrom, who sacked manager Ivar Hoff at the end of last season, have appointed Teitur Thordarsson in his place. The Icelandic coach has vast experience from his time with Brann and Lynn in addition to spells in Sweden and France.

SIGURD ODEGAARD



ISRAEL.....

Tel Aviv's run ends

MACCABI TEL AVIV'S amazing run of 14 games without defeat — 13 wins and one draw — came to an end in round 15 of Israel's National League programme.

Tel Aviv lost to local rivals Bnei Yehuda, who defeated the league leaders 2-0, with goals from the young centre-back Nir Shitrit and the prolific Ukrainian centre forward Nikolai Kodritsky — his 14th of the season.

Bnei Yehuda's victory was also the first time this season that a team kept a clean sheet against the league leaders.

Defeat cut the lead they have had since October from four points to one.

Maccabi Haifa, in second place, took full advantage of Tel Aviv's loss. The northerners beat Maccabi Herzliya 2-0 with a spectacular 30-yard goal from Ukrainian midfielder Sergei Kandaurov, and a simple tap-in from Israel's leading scorer, Alon Mizrahi (16 goals so far this season).

The result meant that the Cup-holders remain the only team without defeat this season. A few weeks before that Haifa proved what great survivors they are by drawing 1-1 with Maccabi Tel Aviv away from home . . . and with 10 men for 89 minutes, after top scorer Mizrahi's dismissal.

AVI MELLER

PORTUGAL.....

Benfica celebrate Robson departure

IT SEEMS Sporting Lisbon never go beyond Christmas as a credible and effective force to win the Portuguese championship or to continue as a candidate in any European contest.

Many people look back to Parkhead where Bobby Robson's team produced good, attacking football. Then, in the return game, Celtic were again on the receiving end and the next opposition in the UEFA Cup could have reasonably expected to be demolished.

Robson (above) presided over all this. He was rated first class as a gentleman and as a football manager. The "victories" over Benfica, when chairman Sousa Cintra had been able to seduce two players away from the Eagles' nest, were paying off and players such as Balakov and Cherbakov were playing at the highest level. Everything was fine with Sporting Lisbon.

But then, with Christmas approaching, things began to turn. After a victory over Casino Salzburg (2-0 at home), they lost to champions FC Porto (3-0 at home), then they won 4-3 — but with tremendous and unexpected difficulties — against Lecea in a Portuguese Cup tie and when visiting the Austrian city for the UEFA Cup return they were surprisingly defeated, 3-2.

There were people who began showing panic. But nobody though that Cintra would go to the extreme measure he announced after returning from Salzburg.

He sacked Robson, replacing him with Carlos Queiroz, the Portuguese national team manager, a man of recognised competence but one who had never managed a club.

A few days later the Russian player Cherbakov, driving home from a send-off for Robson, was involved in a terrible accident in Lisbon which left him unable to walk.

Then, Sporting had to play Benfica at the Stadium of Light. The real reason why Cintra sacked Robson? He thought that the English manager might go and play the game as the gentleman when all he wanted was a battle, a war to be fought and won against the old enemy.

In the event, Benfica produced a stunning performance, and Cintra was humiliated.

Benfica, with elections for the new board of directors due on January 7, will elect a new President to replace the frail Jorge de Brito. The new man, Manuel Damasio, the owner of a Portuguese chain of department stores, has already declared that the club will be taken in a new direction, the financial crisis will be solved and the wages of the 500 employees will be, at long last, paid.

ALBERTO DA SILVA

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TURKEY.....

Galatasaray under pressure

GALATASARAY led the table with 35 points as the league concluded for the winter break. Fenerbahce are second with 32 points, and Samsunspor, from the Black sea, lie third.

Defeats in their last games of the first half shocked Galatasaray and Besiktas. Gala slumped to a 2-1 defeat at Bursaspor who have won their last four games, with Danish striker Frank Pingel scoring nine goals so far.

In their last match under Gordon Milne Besiktas suffered their fourth defeat, losing 3-2 away to Altay of Izmir.

Rejuvenated Fenerbahce, under their new German manager Holger Osieck, are doing well.

Under Osieck Fenerbahce managed to beat their great rivals Gala 2-0 and Besiktas 2-1. The league's top scorer is Fenerbahce's midfielder Bulent with 13.

Osieck said: "We are three years behind Galatasaray in organisation. We are building a new team. We are going to challenge with Gala for the championship and Trabzonspor and Besiktas may join us."

Black Sea side Samsunspor made a surprise start with their 23-year-old star striker Ertugrul, who has scored 10 goals.

He caught attention during Turkey's last World Cup qualifying game against Norway by scoring twice.

Among the foreigners, South African Andre Kona of Genclerbirligi has scored 12 goals. Pingel is the next best foreigner with nine, followed by Oswaldo of Besiktas with eight.

Trabzonspor's Georgian twins Shato and Archill, who came on loan from Dynamo Tiblisi, are playing well with Shato scoring six goals in six games.

But their six-month loan period has ended, and, after seeing their potential, Trabzonspor now want to buy them.

In the Turkish Cup the quarter-finalists are Fenerbahce, Gala, Trabzonspor, Samsunspor, Besiktas, Kayserispor, Sariyerspor and Kocaelispor.

Fenerbahce defeated Altay 4-1 with two goals from Bulent (above), Nui and Mecaur; Besiktas defeated Ankara-gucu 2-0 with two goals by Oswaldo; Gala overcame Denizlispor 1-0 with a goal by Mustafa; Trabzon beat Nevsehir 4-0 with goals from Archill (three) and Shato; Kayseri beat Bursa 2-0, Kocaeli defeated Yesilova 5-0, Sariyer beat Genclerbirligi 5-3 and Samsunspor beat Karabuk 3-1.

Behind Fenerbahce's Bulent in the scoring charts are Kona of Genclerbirligi (12) and Hakan of Gala (11).

Bursaspor sacked Sepp Piontek after they lost 1-0 to Samsunspor. Bursa, during his time as coach, played 11, lost five, drew four, won two, and collected 10 points.

HASAN CEMALI

MALTA.....

Hibernians are new leaders

BRIAN TALBOT must be a very happy man these days after his Hibernians side toppled champions Floriana off top spot with a remarkable 3-1 victory.

The new Premier League leaders hit top spot for the first time since their last championship winning term in 1981-82. David Cluett's unbeaten record in the Floriana goal ended after 572 minutes, when Hibs midfielder Charles Scerri equalised Kim Wright's opening goal for the champions.

Goals by George Lawrence and a penalty from Karl Zacchau on the stroke of time smashed Floriana's unbeaten record, which went back to February.

Talbot's main priority will now be that of proving to the loyal, awaiting Paolites supporters that success is finally on the horizon.

Hamrun and Valletta shared the spoils in the other big clash. Nebiosa Milinkovic put the Spartans ahead after 42 minutes, with Joe "Spider" Zarb grabbing a splendid second-half equaliser for Valletta, to move up to seven goals at the top of the goalscorers chart. Hamrun and Hibernians remain the only unbeaten sides.

Sliema Wanderers seem, at long last, to have regained their lost self confidence. They beat Mqabba 4-0 and Birkirkara 2-0 to move up to seven points. New English striking pair John Muir, scorer of three goals in these last two outings, and Dean Edwards, ex-Torquay United, seem to have brought back the old sparkle to the Sliema side.

It is astonishing to note that Sliema have given trials to no less than 17 foreigners this term.

A goal from Albanian international Kastriot Peqini paved the way for Birkirkara's 3-0 win over troubled Rabat Ajax, while inconsistent St Andrew's lost 1-0 to Zurrieq, who are level on six points with St Andrew's and Birkirkara.

Pietro Ghedin's first real test at the helm of the Maltese national side ended in a 2-0 home defeat at the hands of Craig Brown's new-look Scotland in their last Group One World Cup qualifier.

Malta finished last but one, on three points — two ahead of Estonia.

"I am very satisfied with the overall performance of the side, and my priority will be to continue where we left off against the Scots. I'm happy even if we lost," commented Ghedin after the game.

In the recent FIFA rankings Malta are placed 85th from a total of 169 footballing countries.

Meanwhile UEFA'S latest amendments in the new format of the forthcoming Champions Cup was a bitter blow to Maltese football and in particular to Malta's future European representatives.

"There is no more glamour for us in the European club competitions," a leading club spokesman said.

DOMENICO AQUILINA

GREECE.....

Panagoulias confident for US

GREECE, playing in the World Cup finals for the first time, are already optimistic that they will advance to the second round of the competition in the United States.

The draw placed the Greeks in a group with Argentina, Nigeria and Bulgaria.

"It couldn't have been a better draw for us," admitted national coach Alketas Panagoulias.

"It is also good for us that the first match will be against Argentina, a team who do not know us well and will play against us conservatively.

"With the Bulgarians, we are neighbours and know them well. Nigeria are unknown to us, and the unknown is always fearful, but I don't think they will create problems for us."

Panagoulias was also happy with the venues in the group. "In Chicago and Boston the air is Greek. We will have 25,000 of our fans at each match," he said.

Panagoulias believes that the Greek fans will be the major ingredient.

"They will be our first strength and the basic advantage for us against our opponents," he added.

Captain Tasos Mitropoulos (right) said: "The window for Greece is open in the World Cup. I believe we can produce a surprise."

But while Greece looks forward to the World Cup, league teams are in the doldrums. Poor play in the First Division and live televised matches have led to a 35 per cent drop in attendances from the previous season. Some of the matches in the top division attracted less than 1,000 spectators.

Although AEK, Panathinaikos and Olympiakos are once again battling it out at the top they have not captivated the fans.

Olympiakos are looking for a way out of their crisis by firing coach Lubomir Petrovic and signing up Chilean star Fabian Estay of Universidad for £750,000 overr three years.

"We acquired him in order to offer our fans goals. He is one of Latin America's best players," said club president Socratis Kokkalis, who claims the team will have a new coach by January 15.

Kokkalis said the team will be listed on the Athens Stock Exchange in three years time. He said the club aimed to raise 1.3 billion Drachmas by selling shares in Greece and abroad.

He said that a loss of 995 million Drachmas was forecast for the 1993-94 period, but that figure was expected to drop to 390 million Drachmas in the period 1994-95.

● Guards at Alikarnasos Prison on the island of Crete thought it unusual for prisoners to continue asking for new soccer balls from visitors. When they opened one up they found out why . . . it contained 59 grams of hashish and 5 grams of heroin!

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

SLOVAKIA.....

Slovan depression

THE first half of the season saw many of the fears for the new National League realised.

World Cup elimination, European exits at the first stage for champions Slovan, FC Kosice and DAC mean that there is only the prospect of a friendly, with Greece, to open the new Republic's official programme.

Level of performance has been worrying and as the half season ended, Slovan coach Dusan Galis said: "What we lack are attractive opponents such as Sparta, Slavia or even Sigma Olomouc and Banik Ostrava!"

All are Czech or Moravian sides now in their separate leagues and it is not the same playing minnows like Humenne and Brievidza. As predicted they are no match for Slovan who went in to the break after 15 games with a seven-point lead, having lost only once to DAC. They and clubs such as Inter and FC Kosice are the only possible challenge in the 12-strong league.

Stanislav Jarabec was an early season casualty at Nitra, Banska Bystrica parted company with Jan Bodnar and promoted Banik fired Jozef Balazovic.

Of the sides from the smaller towns perhaps only Presov can be satisfied with their autumn's work, sixth in the league and a June 19 appointment booked with Slovan in the Cup final.

CZECH REPUBLIC.....

Under-21s carry the torch

SENIOR international football came to an end for the "Federal Representation" with Czechoslovakia's World Cup defeat in Brussels, but the torch of 73 years of football in the CSSR still has to be put out.

The successes of the Under-21s, notably the clear victories in Ebbw Vale and Mouscron, have put Ivan Kopecky's team into the last eight of UEFA's junior event.

The draw has dictated two matches with Italy and a further chance for the largely Czech squad to show new national coach Dusan Uhrin what they can do. Success over the two legs would mean further games against France or Russia in April.

The new Czech Federation has established itself in Koziulice in Central Prague instead of taking over the offices of its predecessor in the Strahov. The other urgent task, apart from setting up arrangements for the national teams at all levels, is seeing that the Republic's new league prospers. The separate championship is not suffering quite as the Slovak counterpart is. The new clubs have mainly done well. Contrary to expectation, though, poor old Dukla are an exception.

When football resumes, Uhrin hopes to play a friendly or two in preparation for the European Championship qualifying games and the long road to England. Whether he will call on those RCS players who missed out on the finals by a single goal, or bring in the youngsters from the Under-21s remans to be seen.

Some of the veterans of 1990 and the recent campaign under Vaclac Jezek may not be available as they are largely based abroad. Former national captain Ivan Hasek is reportedly negotiating with Mazda Hiroshima.

ROMANIA.....

Dark horses look a good bet

THE euphoria of qualifying for the US will not have been dampened by a draw which should see the Romanians in the second phase if their confidence remains as high as that before the game in Cardiff.

Two matches in Los Angeles, interspersed with a visit to meet the Swiss in the cooler climes of Detroit, is not exactly convenient and starting with Colombia makes for an interesting programme which could end with a cliffhanger against the hosts in the Rose Bowl. With their experience the Romanians could be a good outside bet to go a long way provided Anghel Iordanescu has sufficient time with his squad.

Domestically, Steaua dominate, as ever, though their penultimate match before the break, with rivals Dinamo, only produced a 1-0 home win. There followed a goalless draw with "E" in Craiova who are having a poor season.

Dinamo, too, have by their standards made only a modest challenge on the former European champions, though they finished the half season with a resounding 6-1 success over mid-table FC Brasov.

Sportul and Timisoara look likely candidates for relegation though a goalless draw at Progresul Bucharest and only a 2-0 home win in the last two games of 1993 kept promoted Ceahlaul out of trouble.

Three points from the last four kept up Ploesti's return to contention after a long period in the doldrums where former national coach, Cornel Dinu, is still in trouble . . . having been banned from the touchline for dissent.

BOB VAUGHAN

HUNGARY.....

Puskas hungry for aggression

HUNGARIAN champions Kispest-Honved escaped from their harsh winter for a fourth visit to England in 11 months and were warmly received in Wolverhampton.

Thirty-nine years ago the same club — then called Honved — had lost 3-2 to Wanderers as floodlit football was introduced in England.

After a 1-1 draw in a match played to celebrate the new Molineux stadium — a four-stand, all-seater complex with a capacity of 28,500 — Kispest's most famous son, Ferenc Puskas, reckoned that much of the match was like a sleeping pill. To him Kispest's technique was too much an end in itself, he wanted more aggression.

Yet the play of the young Kispest squad, whose own facilities and support are much more humble than at Wolves, made a deep impression on Billy Wright, now a Wolves director and great friend of Puskas (above) from their playing days together.

Ferenc Orosz, 24-year-old striker, said: "The difference between the conditions here and in Hungary is just as big as the difference in mentality of the players. For such a match as this, the whole city is involved. They are not even champions, or in the FA Premiership, yet the football goes on here in the best surroundings. "

How could those surroundings be revived in Hungary, how could this apathy change?

"It is not a question of football; the whole country must change. Apathy is present not only in football, it is simply reflected in football. In theory, Hungarian life is more realistic now, politically and economically, but as a citizen I don't feel it.

"Sir Jack Hayward says 'I'll build a new stadium'; he wouldn't do it in present-day Hungary. Even if he had the money he wouldn't do it."

But Wright praised the Hungarians, past and present. He said: "In my mind I will never forget the great Hungarian team, ever!

"I think we learn from Hungary. They've got more skill than we have today and that's how we learn. They pushed the ball around and our youngsters were all saying to me after the game how they felt there were different problems for them.

"They said they found their players were getting behind them and they had not faced that before.

"The president, Sir Jack Hayward, has built this stadium at a cost of £14-£20million and there were 28,000 people here tonight. The stadium is fantastic. Now the people want to come and see the team in the Premiership. It has created the reinterest of football in the town of Wolverhampton."

● Uncapped Bekescsaba midfielder Janos Argyelan is the Hungarian FA's Player of the Year for 1993. The 25-year-old scored crucial goals as his team achieved six away wins in the autumn season. He began his career at Gyula, near the Romanian border, and made his First Division debut in 1990.

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

TABLES

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	22	12	7	3	37	15	31
Sion	22	11	9	2	34	14	31
Young Boys	22	9	7	6	37	25	25
Servette	22	9	7	6	38	37	25
Lausanne	22	9	6	7	28	27	24
Lugano	22	7	8	7	23	27	22
Lucerne	22	8	5	9	26	32	21
Aarau	22	8	5	9	24	30	21
FC Zurich	22	6	8	8	25	22	20
Neuchatel	22	4	9	9	24	31	17
Yverdon	22	3	8	11	19	33	14
Kriens	22	3	7	12	17	38	12

The top eight teams advance to the championship rounds starting in February. The bottom four compete in relegation/promotion play-offs with four leading Second Division teams.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK Athens	15	10	3	2	30	12	33
Panathinaikos	15	9	3	3	32	19	30
Olympiakos	15	7	7	1	23	11	28
Aris	15	8	3	4	26	16	27
PAOK	15	7	5	3	23	15	26
Iraklis	15	6	5	4	26	17	23
OFI Crete	14	6	4	4	28	17	22
Appollon	15	5	6	4	12	14	21
Athinaikos	15	5	4	6	17	20	19
Levadiakos	15	5	4	6	16	20	19
Edessaikos	15	5	3	7	21	28	18
Doxa	15	5	3	7	17	26	18
Larissa	15	4	5	6	19	25	17
Xanthi	15	4	4	7	25	30	16
Kalamaria	15	4	4	7	16	23	16
Panionios	14	4	3	7	21	23	15
Panahaiki	15	3	4	8	18	31	13
Naoussa	15	2	0	13	19	42	6

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	14	10	3	1	34	15	23
FC Porto	14	7	6	1	22	9	20
Sporting	14	9	2	3	23	10	20
Guimaraes	14	7	4	3	13	7	18
Boavista	14	7	2	5	22	14	16
Maritimo	14	5	5	4	19	18	15
Salgueiros	14	7	1	6	21	21	15
Gil Vicente	14	5	5	4	17	20	15
Pacos Ferreira	14	5	4	5	12	14	14
Belenenses	14	6	2	6	15	18	14
E. Amadora	14	4	5	5	14	13	13
Beira-Mar	14	4	3	7	10	13	11
Sp. Braga	14	3	5	6	11	15	11
Setubal	14	4	2	8	22	21	10
Uniao Madeira	14	4	2	8	15	22	10
Farense	14	5	0	9	17	27	10
Famalicao	14	4	1	9	11	29	9
Estoril	14	2	4	8	8	22	8

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	20	14	4	2	34	8	32
Dinamo	20	10	5	5	41	21	25
Univ. Craiova	20	10	4	6	39	29	24
Petrolul	20	10	4	6	23	16	24
Gloria Bistrita	20	10	3	7	25	37	23
Farul Constanta	20	9	3	8	30	28	21
Inter Sibiu	20	8	5	7	27	27	21
FC Brasov	20	9	3	8	23	23	21
UT Arad	20	8	5	7	19	26	21
Progresul	20	8	4	8	28	22	20
Rapid	20	8	3	9	20	23	19
Otelul Galati	20	7	4	9	20	28	18
OU Braila	20	6	5	9	22	27	17
Univ. Cluj	20	6	5	9	24	28	16
Electro Craiova	20	5	5	10	16	23	15
Ceahlaul Piatra	20	5	5	10	14	30	15
Poli. Timisoara	20	6	2	12	20	34	14
Sp. Studentesc	20	5	4	11	16	31	14

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasarary	14	11	2	1	32	15	35
Fenerbahce	14	8	5	1	28	15	29
Samsunspor	14	7	5	2	20	13	26
Besiktas	14	7	4	3	27	12	25
Trabzonspor	14	7	4	3	25	17	25
Kocaelispor	14	7	3	4	25	22	24
Genclerbirligi	14	6	3	5	28	22	21
Bursaspor	14	5	4	5	17	18	19
Karsiyaka	14	5	2	7	11	16	17
Gaziantepspor	14	4	3	7	25	27	15
Sariyer	14	4	3	7	12	19	15
Zeytinburnu	14	3	4	7	12	19	13
Ankaragucu	14	3	3	8	18	28	12
Altay	14	1	4	9	12	23	7
Karabukspor	14	1	4	9	12	32	7

UZBEKISTAN
Final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Neftchi	30	24	4	2	83	27	52
Pakhtakor	30	20	7	3	74	29	47
Navbukhop	30	18	4	8	64	36	40
Sogdiana	30	16	8	6	47	31	40
Nurafshon	30	15	5	10	46	32	35
Temirjulchi	30	13	5	12	36	34	31
Navruz	30	11	8	11	43	41	30
CSKA Tashkent	30	9	9	12	38	50	27
Politotdel	30	12	2	16	52	52	26
Traktor	30	10	6	14	25	38	26
Aral	30	11	3	16	37	55	25
Iangier	30	9	6	15	34	44	24
Chirchik	30	8	5	17	43	57	21
Shifokor	30	8	3	19	37	76	19
Kushon	30	6	7	17	33	57	19
Dyn. Samarkand	30	6	3	21	22	59	15

RUSSIA . . . . .

Knives out for Sadyrin

FOURTEEN top Russian players have caused a sensation by announcing their intention to withdraw from the national squad just six months before the World Cup finals.

In an open letter addressed to President Boris Yeltsin's sports adviser, the rebel stars demanded that team manager Pavel Sadyrin be replaced by former coach Anatoli Bishovets.

The letter, signed by Nikiforov, Karpin, Ivanov, Yuran, Shalimov, Dobrovolski, Kolyvanov, Kanchelskis (right), Mostovoi, Onopko, Khlestov, Kiriakov, Salenko and Kulkov, says that Sadyrin, "a good club coach, does not fit the standards of a national coach."

"All that has been achieved by the team in qualifying games . . . is the result of the work done by Bishovets in his own time."

Bishovets was forced to resign in the summer of 1992 after the Russian (then CIS) team's failure in the European Championship finals in Sweden.

The ex-Kiev Dynamo player was the Soviet Union's best striker of the late 1960s and early 1970s. He earned recognition as a coach in 1988 when his team won Olympic gold in Seoul. After his dismissal Bishovets spent a year in Cyprus with AEL.

In the letter, published by Russia's major sports papers, the 12 players called themselves victims of mis-management and financial machinations on the part of the national Football Federation.

They also complained about insufficient bonuses they got for reaching the World Cup finals and the inadequate training conditions. Small wonder: heating was switched off at the national team's training camp in Novogorsk near Moscow a few days before the last qualifying game against Greece and the players had to spend cold winter nights with their coats on.

The Russian Football Federation denied most of the charges and fully supported Sadyrin.

Its executive committee's meeting ordered the coach to go ahead with World Cup preparations.

So the ball is now on the players' side again. Will they show the same resolve when Sadyrin announces the date for the next training camp?

In the meantime Bishovets postponed his trip to South Korea where he was supposed to discuss a contact with a local team.

VICTOR GUSEV

POLAND . . . . .

Poland look to Apostel for guidance

HENRYK APOSTEL, 53, is Poland's new national coach, replacing Leslaw Cmikiewicz, who resigned in November.

Apostel played for Polonia Bytom, Legia Warsaw, Slask Wroclaw and Eagles Chicago. He had one cap in 1962. As a coach he won the FA Cup with Slask Wroclaw in 1987 and won the Division One championship with Lech Poznan in 1992. He started this season with Gornik in Zabrze, who top the Polish league after the first stage.

Said Apostel: "The national team should be about 80 per cent players from the domestic league, and about 20 per cent attached to Western clubs."

Forward Marek Lesniak, 30, was voted Poland Footballer of the Year by the magazine *Pilka Nozna*. He plays for SF Wattenscheid in the Bundesliga and last March he returned to the national team after a four-year break.

Andrzej Zamilski, 49, was voted Manager of the Year. He was in charge of the youth team who won the European Under-16 Championship in May and took fourth place in the World Under-17 Championship in September.

One of the Zamilski's players, Maciej Terlecki, 16, was voted the Most Talented Young Player of the Year. He is a trainee at Anderlecht in Brussels.

A midfielder, Radoslaw Michalski, 24, was voted the Discovery of the Year. In 1992 he joined Legia Warsaw and he made his national debut against Turkey in Istanbul in November last year.

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI

ALBANIA . . . . .

FOR the first time Teuta, from the town of Durresi, have won the "winter championship title".

Teuta's coach, Haxhi Ballgjini, said: "In 1991-92 we were third, last year second, now I think Teuta will win the title for the first time."

Teuta, a young side, have relied on goalkeeper Xhevair Kapllani, who didn't concede a goal for 829 minutes. Defender Ardian Abazi, midfielder Anesti Qendro, and forward Alvaro Zalla have all been outstanding too.

But the championship is still open with Teuta on 18 points, Flamurtari 17, Elbasani 16, Tirana and Partizani 15. The second part of the title race begins in February.

A total of 243,900 spectators saw the matches of the first half, with an average of 2,214. The biggest crowd was 8,000 for Elbasani v Partizani.

GEZIM NUSHI

MOLDOVA . . . . .

TWO top Moldovan clubs — Zimbul of Kishiniev and Tiligul Tiraspol — have been overtaken by Kodru from Kalarash after the first half of the championship.

Unbeaten Kodru lead the table with 27 points (12 victories and three draws), one point ahead of Tiligul, 29 goals for and only six against.

The champions, Zimbrul Kishiniev, are struggling after losing leader and captain Alexander Spiridon to Qatar, but still have a chance to retain their title.

Second-placed Tiligul have scored 52 goals after the club's owner Grigori Korzun made a bet with top marksman Vladimir Kosse.

"Korzun promised to give me a car if I scored 30 goals for the season. I have scored about 50 and I have won the bet," said Kosse, 26, who was wanted by Romania's Rapid Bucharest during the summer break.

VLADIMIR KALINKOVICH

BULGARIA . . . . .

Penev's chances look promising

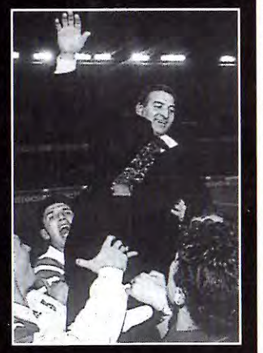
BULGARIA'S "Heroes of Paris" have been kindly treated in the World Cup draw and will fancy managing a "good third" or even a second place in Group D.

Coach Dimitar Penev (below right) has the advantage of playing his first two matches after two of the other competitors in Group D, but exchanging Texas for Michigan and then returning to the Cotton Bowl from Chicago is not the most convenient of tours. Nevertheless Bulgaria have a good chance of progressing past the first round for the first time.

Domestic football sleeps in winter with Levski the most contented dreamers, as a result of a successful first half season in the League and due to Cup exits by most of the elite.

The betting must now be on Levski for Cup as well as League honours in what may be a dull spring programme unless the Federation can entice top opposition for farewell friendlies in Sofia before the World Cup.

BOB VAUGHAN



UZBEKISTAN . . .

Russian takes Neftchi to title

LEADING striker Rustam Durmanov shot Neftchi Fergana to their second championship of Uzbekistan, with 23 of their 83 goals.

Neftchi shared the title with Pakhtakor Tashkent last season, but this time they took 52 points from their 30 games and finished five clear.

Four of their leading players left before the season began, but help from sponsors enabled Neftchi to rebuild. Their position as the wealthiest club in the country is in stark contrast to the rest.

Pakhtakor, the only Uzbek club to have played in the old Soviet Supreme League, could not pay their players at one stage of the season and even the national squad had to pull out of matches in Turkey and Iran, comparatively short distances away, because of a cash shortage.

A Soccer Development Fund was set up to help solve the problem and this enabled Dutch club Vitesse Arnhem to visit the country for two games.

They beat Pakhtakor 3-2 and scored twice in the last few minutes to beat a national selection 2-1.

Coach Rustam Akramov gave 17 players a chance in this game.

VLADIMIR KALINKOVICH

INSIDE OUT

COMPILED BY DAVID PROLE AND JOHN KELLY

The sweet smell of . . . Kilmarnock!

KILMARNOCK have already tasted the sweet smell of success in the Scottish Premier Division, and now they hope it rubs off with their latest commercial venture.

The Rugby Park club have launched their own brand of perfumes and aftershaves called "The Kilmarnock Premier Collection".

The idea is the brainchild of the club chairman's wife, Annie Fleeting, and the merchandise in on sale at the official club shop.

Bank on Blobby

ENGLAND has been in the grip of Blobbymania in recent weeks.

Mr Blobby, a huge pink cartoon-like character, has assumed cult status through his TV appearances, wobbling around, knocking over people and furniture, making a hit record, and generally bringing a smile to a weary nation.

He is even quoted by bookmakers as a possible future England soccer manager. Not so much another Graham Taylor, more a Blobby Robson!

Friendly fire . . .

BRAZILIAN Jose Candido's friendly approach to football has cost him his job, even though he has helped his team to reach the World Cup Finals.

Candido (right) was coach to the Saudi Arabian squad who topped the final Asian qualifying group, but the celebrations did not last very long.

Apparently Candido upset Saudi officialdom by being too matey with his Iraqi counterpart, Ammu Baba, and by telling his players to "behave politely" towards their opponents when they played each other.

The match was drawn 1-1 and the Saudis duly booked their place in the United States, with South Korea. But poor Candido was shown the door . . . having forgotten (or ignored) the fact that Saudi Arabia and Iraq are still sworn enemies as a result of the Gulf War.

Final frenzy

THE six-club South Korean League is a busy little affair, with each one playing the others six times. In the season just ended, the 90 matches produced only 166 goals, but the *adidas* Cup Final was something else.

There was no score for 59 minutes. Then eight goals came in the remaining period, with champions Ilwha leading POSCO 2-0 and 4-2 before eventually winning 5-3.

LEGIA WARSAW goalkeeper Maciej Szczesny is at home in front of and behind the goal.

Szczesny, 28, is one of Poland's best goalkeepers and lists photography as his main hobby. He is often seen behind the goal taking pictures, which are published in two Polish magazines — *Pilka Nozna* and *Express Wieczorny*.

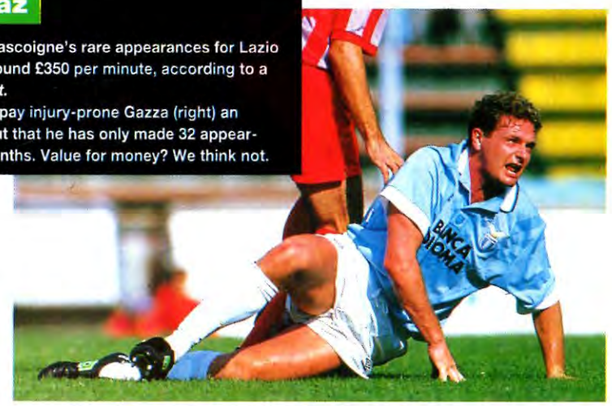
"I would like to work as a professional photographer after I finish my career," he said.

***Inside Out* will keep you informed of any, ahem, developments!**

The price of Gaz

ENGLAND midfielder Paul Gascoigne's rare appearances for Lazio have cost the Italian club around £350 per minute, according to a report in *Corriere Dello Sport*.

The newspaper said Lazio pay injury-prone Gazza (right) an annual salary of £900,000, but that he has only made 32 appearances with the club in 18 months. Value for money? We think not.



DO YOU ever think of what managers really mean when they appear in the media? Reader *TIM HOPKINS* does. Read on . . .

SOCCERSPEAK

MANAGERS SAY	MANAGERS MEAN
A game of two halves	Boring one-all draw
One for the theorists	Boring nil-all draw
The ref had a good game	Decisions went our way
The ref? No comment	Decisions went against us
Negotiating contracts	Being screwed by agents
Experimental team	Desperate coach
Tactically sound	Long balls to target man
Tactical substitution	Scored a lucky equaliser
Our fans	Loyal supporters
Their fans	Psychotic hooligans
Overseas player yet to establish himself in English football	Too skilful
A man whose association with managers and players goes back 30 years	Ticket tout
Bungs	Creative non-accounting
Wife wants to be nearer her mother	Wife wants to be further away from him
Can play anywhere	But we'd rather he didn't
Physical	Psychopathic
Solid	Between the ears
Fearless	Reckless
Tireless	Brainless
Temperamental	Mental
Unsettled	Stroppy
Playboy	Lout
Keeps the rest of the team amused	Juvenile
Has 'flu	Dropped
Has A levels	Lonely
Speaks good English	Dutch or German
Vote of confidence	Vote of *no* confidence

A Century of World Football

PART FIVE

1970-80

BY MIKE LANGLEY

The Prince and the Kaiser

Johan and Franz dominate a decade

Flying prince . . . Holland's Johan Cruyff is brought down for a penalty in the 1974 World Cup Final against West Germany.

Tiny terrier . . . Argentina's Ardiles.

AJAX AMSTERDAM used to employ a woman from the slums to clean their offices. To kneel and scrub, dust and polish while maybe humming to herself: "Some day my prince will come."

This was not the usual unrealised daydream of a drudge. Her prince, a skinny kid in the youth scheme, was already at the club doors. Only 10 years old, but destined to instal his mother in luxury. He was Johan Cruyff.

FIFA News in December 1977 estimated Cruyff's annual income at £620,000 as a one-man Wall Street of investments, property, advertising and football at Barcelona.

That is £11,923 a week which, 16 inflated years later, outranks the known earnings of any present British-based player.

Today, at Barcelona as the world's highest-paid manager, Cruyff remains streets ahead. His life has been mainly soccer success despite being born (in 1947) into a country that remained amateur and partly semi-pro throughout the first four post-war World Cups.

Holland sat out the 1950 and 1954 World Cups, won only against Luxembourg when entering at last in 1958, and again failed hopelessly in their 1962 qualifying group.

Yet Holland teemed with talent. From Cruyff to Bergkamp — interspersed by Neeskens, Krol, Keizer, Haan, Van Hanegem, Rep, Rensenbrink, Koeman, Van Basten, Rijkaard, Gullit and many others — represents an explosion of ability rivalled since World War II only by Brazil and Hungary.

The date of transformation was 1964 when the Dutch FA approved full professionalism and Ajax signed a new coach — their old bustling centre-forward Rinus Michels, who lit the way ahead by first saving Ajax from relegation and then winning three consecutive championships.

Winger Keizer says: "Michels changed our schedule into the hardest physical preparation I've had — sometimes four training sessions a day. He was very strict, and those who didn't like it had to leave."

Yet the Dutch continued to fail in the World Cup. They did not qualify in 1966 or 1970 and were unregarded here even as club players until 1966-67 and the second round of the Champions Cup, when British viewers were transfixed by a remarkable sight.

Billy Shankly's Liverpool — Champions Cup semi-finalists and Cup-winners Cup finalists in the two previous seasons — were being torn apart by a lean, all-white phantom bursting out of the Amsterdam fog and flitting at will past mighty Yeats, iron Smith and classy Lawler.

Ajax won the first leg 5-1 — which enraged Shankly into a preposterous forecast: "Och they're a defensive side. We'll murder 'em at Anfield."

Far from it! Cruyff scored twice and only a late equaliser by Hunt deprived Ajax of the honour of being the first visiting winners at Liverpool in any UEFA competition.

Two years later, Ajax were in the final. And the following year Feyenoord of Rotterdam won the Champions Cup after extra time against Jock Stein's Celtic. Dutch football had taken off!

Next season Ajax lifted the trophy at Wembley against Panathanikos after overcoming Celtic, the 1967 winners. The Scots — at their peak of racking up nine successive championships — drew 83,000 to Hampden and won the second leg 1-0. Not enough.

Keizer said: "The Scots were like a machine and not prepared, like us, to rely on individual skills. We had a better football education than the British, whose crowds wanted excitement all the time. Hence the stereotyped target-man and high balls.

> 'The Scots were like a machine and not prepared, like us, to rely on individual skills. We had a better football education than the British, whose crowds wanted excitement all the time'

"The Dutch were not as formalised. At times, we played without a centre-forward and left others to use that space. Johan would often drift to outside-left and I wandered across."

Arsenal's double-winners of 1971 were the next British victims of Cruyff, despite an away goal after 14 minutes of the first leg. Cruyff inspired a 2-1 comeback and new Romanian coach Stefan Kovacs said: "Ajax never played better."

Bob Wilson, cheered off for a night of heroic saves, believed: "We have them cornered. One-nil at Highbury will be enough." He had the right score, wrong scorer. George Graham, now Arsenal's manager, headed into his own net!

"Some teams were beaten even before we played," said Keizer. Indeed, the world seemed full of pushovers in 1972 when Ajax won the Dutch championship and FA Cup, retained the Champions Cup and outplayed Independiente of Argentina by a 4-1 aggregate in the then two-legged World Club Cup.

Even Bayern Munich joined the stooges in the 1973 Champions Cup quarter-finals. I flew to Amsterdam with a party of managers and saw Cruyff lure the German markers into quicksand. The Dutch won 4-0.

On our flight home we agreed that Gerd Muller was half-fit and a fading force, and that Franz Beckenbauer was slow and wasted at sweeper. But our managers were undecided on whether Sepp Maier was responsible for three goals, or only two.

Jump forward 16 months to Munich and a lap of honour starring Muller (scorer of the winner from a lightning turn), Maier (besieged but unbeatable through the first goalless second half of a World Cup final) and skipper Beckenbauer, first captor of FIFA's new golden statuette.

West Germany 2, Holland 1 — and triumph at last for Kaiser Franz over opponents described to me during the tournament by those excellent judges Bobby Robson and Ian St John as: "The complete football team — one of the best ever. As skilful as Brazil, faster than anybody around — and blending those qualifies with British physical contact."

Cruyff, a whippet over 10 yards, was the directing intelligence and Johan Neeskens was the hammer — a midfielder who penetrated the penalty area more often than his forwards.

Bertie Mee, manager of Arsenal's 1971 double team, was with us and I asked him to name a Briton comparable to Neeskens. He replied: "Only Duncan Edwards." (Munich, of course, was where Edwards died in 1958 after Manchester United's plane crash.)

Cesar Menotti, who would win the next World Cup with Argentina, called the result: "A case of one specialist (Muller) beating 10 all-rounders.

"But it was also a case of Beckenbauer on the day proving a greater captain than Cruyff.

Beckenbauer was wasted marking Bobby Charlton through the 1966 World Cup Final. His dislocated shoulder against Italy contributed to an extra-time exit in the 1970 semi-final.

But everything (despite a first-minute penalty by Neeskens) came right against Dutchmen who probably had peaked and were playing away for the first time. Their previous matches were all within easy reach of the regular 35,000 supporters pouring over the frontier into Germany.

Beckenbauer showed his all-time supremacy as an attacking sweeper. Kevin Keegan once told me: "He was even greater there than Bobby Moore — advancing further and more often, making and scoring more goals.

"Don Revie asked me to mark Beckenbauer at Wembley in 1975 so I closed down on him, thinking: 'No options for you, lad, except knocking it back to Maier.'

"Not Kaiser Franz! He would pause on the ball, brush it with the sole of his boot, shuffle it aside by no more than a few inches and, suddenly, bend a kick round me. He did that at least eight times. We won 2-0 but I felt a failure. He was an imperturbable opponent, trading on impatient and playing the waiting game. When I dummied to challenge, he knew already it was only a dummy. When it was real, he slipped the ball by. Uncanny!"

> 'Beckenbauer was even greater there than Bobby Moore — advancing further and more often, making and scoring more goals'

Beckenbauer was then on a run of three Champions Cup victories (1974, 75, 76) that equalled Ajax under Cruyff. But the Flying Dutchman, in his turn, declined a wonderful chance to equal Beckenbauer's feat of captaining World Cup winners.

Cruyff played in four of the 1978 qualifiers (including two against Northern Ireland) but refused to go to Argentina for the finals. Yet he was only 31 and still the force taking Barcelona to the semi-finals of the 1978 UEFA Cup.

Cruyff's authority as captain and scorer could have tipped the scales for Holland against Argentinians whose nervousness throughout the tournament culminated in the final by objecting to the original referee, taking the field late and causing a 10-minute hold-up by protesting against a plaster on Rene Van der Kerkhof's forearm.

Why didn't Cruyff go? The clue is in a story told to me by Stefan Kovacs on the day before clinching the World Cluc Cup against Independiente in Amsterdam. A Dutch businessman was kidnapped in Buenos Aires during Ajax's first-leg visit at the height of the "Dirty War" between urban guerrillas and the military junta who invaded the Falklands.

That night the phone rang in Kovacs's room and a voice warned in English: "Next, Number 14!".

Kovacs said: "We couldn't get home fast enough."

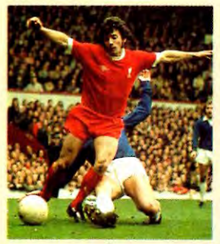
Cruyff's No. 14 shirt became world-famous in 1974 but, after that call and fighting off a kidnap attempt in Spain, mothballs seemed safer than South America. Who can blame him?

Leading players

FRANZ BECKENBAUER, sweeper-captain of Bayern Munich and West Germany. Known as "Der Kaiser" for his supposed arrogance when, in fact, a shy, withdrawn but pleasant man of whom West Germany's manager Helmut Schoen said: "In 11 years together we have never exchanged a cross word, nor have I ever considered dropping him. He's always the first name I think of."

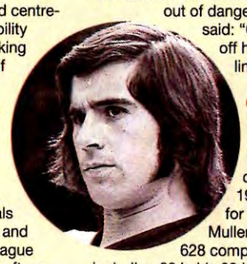
JOHAN CRUYFF, left-sided centre-forward of unsurpassed mobility and intelligence. Chain-smoking slum-boy who taught himself to speak four foreign languages — English, German, Spanish and reasonable French. Captain of Ajax and Holland. First team at 17, international at 19, 33 goals in 48 matches for Holland. Also scored 287 League goals in Holland the United States and Spain — where he won a League championship for Barcelona after a £992,000 transfer from Ajax.

KEVIN KEEGAN, small, strong, indomitable winner of League championship in England and Germany (below). Two titles at Liverpool, also two UEFA Cups and, in his final match, the 1977 Champions Cup. With Hamburg, he won the Bundesliga, played in the 1980 Champions Cup Final and was twice European Footballer of the Year. Scored 171 English League goals, won 63 caps.



MARIO KEMPES topped the 1978 World Cup scoring with six goals after failing to get even one in 1974. Good balance, speed, a powerful shot and drag-back trick of evading challenges. His 28 goals for Valencia in 1978 was a Spanish League best since Di Stefano's 31 for Real Madrid in 1957.

OSVALDO ARDILES, high-speed and tiny, but inexhaustible, right-half of Argentina's 1978 World Cup winners. Signed for only £350,000 by Tottenham and then delighted English crowds with his skills and side-skips out of danger. Joe Royle said: "Getting the ball off him is like tackling dust!"



GERD MULLER, "Der Bomber" whose final goal for his country won the 1974 World Cup for West Germany. Muller (left) scored 628 competitive goals, including 68 in his 62 internationals. Not elegant, but probably the most effective of all European strikers.

WOLFGANG OVERATH retired, like Muller, from international football after collecting a 1974 World Cup winners' medal to go with runners-up (1966) and third-place (1970). Not flamboyant, yet faultless in every aspect of midfield play — tackling, passing short or long, anticipation, work-rate and readiness to seize a scoring chance.

JOHAN NEESKENS, the superlative midfield dynamo. Powerful, heroically brave, fast, endlessly energetic and with a thumping shot that brought him five goals in the 1974 World Cup. When people talk of rising young stars, remind them that Neeskens had won three Champions Cups and scored in a World Cup Final while still only 22!

Leading Clubs

AJAX, the first club since Real Madrid (1956, 57, 58) to complete a hat-trick of Champions Cups. The feat was based on a team of three all-time greats — Cruyff, Neeskens, Krol — with nine outfield internationals and only one non-Dutch player. He was centre-half Blankenburg, a German.

BAYERN MUNICH immediately equalled the Ajax hat-trick, but not as clinically. They needed a final replay against Atletico Madrid in Brussels and a favourable offside decision against Leeds United in Paris when Lorimer's volley flew in. Bayern's great stars were Beckenbauer and Muller backed by the excellent internationals Maier, Breitner and Hoeness.

HOLLAND — almost the perfect team in 1974, lacking only in goal and at centre-half. The rest, under Cruyff's baton, included such brilliant ball-players and ball-users as Krol and the lesser-sung Van Hanegem and Suurbier. Their 4-0 destruction of Argentina at Gelsenkirchen ranks as possibly the worst humiliation inflicted by Europeans on a strong South American country.

LIVERPOOL — the first British club to win successive Champions Cups, a feat achieved at Wembley against Club Brugge when fielding perhaps the strongest-yet English League midfield: Case, McDermott, Souness, Kennedy.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST burst out of the Second Division to win the League championship — a post-war feat performed previously only by Spurs (1951) and Ipswich (1962). Forest then beat Malmo in Munich to make England the first country with three separate winners of the Champions Cup. Clough provided Forest's motivation, chubby Robertson supplied the crosses, Shilton boarded up the goal.

BY RINO LANDA

Baggio reign

but 1993 was the year of the teams

1993 MONTHLY DIARY AWARD WINNERS

Jan Hristo **Stoichkov** ***Besiktas***

Feb **Rai** ***Milan***

ROBERTO BAGGIO carried off the individual prizes — winning a hat-trick of awards as FIFA Footballer of the Year, as European Footballer of the Year and as *WORLD SOCCER'S* own World Player of the Year.

But more than a year for individuals, 1993 will go down as a year when the team game grabbed most of the headlines — good and bad.

At international level no teams cornered more fuss and attention than the French via their national team and, inevitably, via Marseille.

Last summer they could do no wrong. Marseille had just won the Champions Cup, a long-overdue French first, and Les Bleus had just won their fifth successive World Cup qualifier and appeared to possess the key to the door of the 1994 finals.

If a week is a long time in politics, six months is an eternity in football; and an eternity in which France and Marseille plunged from heaven to hell. By the end of November Marseille were in near-bankrupt disgrace over a match-fixing scandal and France had been eliminated from the World Cup on a goal with 10 seconds remaining in their final qualifying game.

In a year when Diego Maradona returned to World Cup action and injured Dutch superstar Marco Van Basten hardly kicked a ball, Marseille took top prize for hitting the headlines again and again. In May, Bernard Tapie sat a few seats from Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi in Munich's Olympic Stadium and watched international defender Basile Boli head in the only goal as Marseille became the first French club to win a European trophy by lifting the Champions Cup.

By the end of the year, however, it was Berlusconi's team back on top of European soccer, thanks to events off the field. No sooner had Marseille brought the Champions Cup home, than it was alleged that club officials had offered bribes to players from French club Valenciennes to throw a domestic game staged just before the final. The allegations exploded into a major scandal and, although nothing had been proved by the end of the year, UEFA took action. Although it stopped short of stripping Marseille of the title, UEFA threw Tapie's club out of this season's Champions Cup.

In their absence, Milan are back on course to confirming themselves as Europe's best with a fifth title on the horizon in the last Champions Cup

Mar Jurgen **Klinsmann** ***Atalanta***

Apr Jean-Pierre **Papin** ***Zimbabwe***

May Faustino **Asprilla** ***Greece***

Roberto **Baggio** ***Auxerre*** **Jun**

gns . . .

before this wonderful competition is converted, from start to financially-awesome finish, into the Champions League.

The bribery allegations also prevented Marseille from representing Europe in the World Club Cup against South American champions Sao Paulo. Milan faced the Brazilians instead but lost 3-2 in Tokyo. Still, they may yet add another prize when they face Parma in the next six weeks in the European Supercup.

Milan's Champions Cup defeat by Marseille prevented an Italian sweep of all three European titles. Parma won the Cup-winners Cup by beating Antwerp at Wembley and Juventus swept away Borussia Dortmund, winning both legs of the UEFA Cup final courtesy of Baggio's inspiration.

The French collapse in the World Cup was almost as spectacular as Marseille's slump at club level. With two games to go, Gerard Houllier's team needed just a draw from home matches with Israel and Bulgaria.

France led Israel 2-1 with eight minutes to go but lost 3-2. They were all-square at 1-1 with Bulgaria before Emil Kostadinov scored the winner for the visitors with 10 seconds to go.

France were out and, not surprisingly, Houllier quit. So did England's Graham Taylor after the painful failure to make it to US '94. Defeats by Norway and Holland virtually ended England's hopes, and Taylor quit even though his men ended with a 7-1 away victory at San Marino.

European champions Denmark also did not make it but Argentina, the 1990 runners-up, forced into the embarrassment of a play-off against Australia, scrambled through on the back of a narrow 1-0 victory in Buenos Aires. Maradona, back playing in his homeland with Newell's Old Boys and looking far slimmer than when he left Spain's Sevilla, provided glimpses of the technique which made him the world's best before his drug suspension three years ago.

Maradona is almost certain to be on the World Cup stage in the United States to share the spotlight with the players who emerged as the best of 1993, including Brazil's Romario, the inevitable Baggio and Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp.

Nigeria, Cameroon and Morocco all made it to the World Cup finals from Africa while South Korea and Saudi Arabia advanced from Asia and Bolivia were surprise qualifiers from South America. Zambia might well have qualified had it not been for a plane crash in April in which 18 of the national team were killed. With a rebuilt squad, Zambia came close to qualifying before losing 1-0 to Morocco.

The most spectacular result of the qualifying campaign was probably Colombia's 5-0 victory in Argentina, led by two goals by Faustino Asprilla, another of the stars of 1993.

Before that defeat, Argentina won the Copa America by beating Mexico 2-1 in Ecuador and Mexico overpowered the United States 4-0 in the final of the CONCACAF Gold Cup. World Cup holders Germany won the US Cup after victories over the United States and England and a 3-3 draw with Brazil.

One bright spot for England was the revival of Manchester United. Under Alex Ferguson, United won the league title for the first time since 1967 and even opened up a gap of 15 points over their rivals shortly before the end of the year. In the Champions Cup, however, United were upset by Galatasaray of Turkey. For the first time in English history, the same two clubs made it to the finals of the FA and League Cups — Arsenal beating Sheffield Wednesday in both.

Even more remarkably in Scotland, Rangers won the League, Scottish Cup and League Cup and Aberdeen were runners-up in all three.

Coincidence, too, in Spain. For the second consecutive season Real Madrid lost to Tenerife on the final day of the season and surrendered the league title to Barcelona. Milan romped away with the Italian title, Feyenoord triumphed in the Holland and Werder Bremen were surprise winners in Germany.

Van Basten spent most of the year troubled by an ankle injury which refuses to go away. The Milan striker returned briefly at the end of the 1992-93 season after a six-month lay-off but has not played at all this season and may miss the entire campaign — including the World Cup finals.

For Van Basten, a year to forget. But, for the rest of us, one to remember . . .

Dec Ruud **Gullit** ▲ ***Zambia***

◄ Anthony **Yeboah** ***Colombia*** **Nov**

Jul

Roberto **Baggio** ***Cwmbran Town***

Sep

Jacques **Glassman** ***Argentina***

➤ Glenn **Hoddle** ***Marseille*** **Aug**

➤ Bernd **Schuster** ***Bolivia*** **Oct**

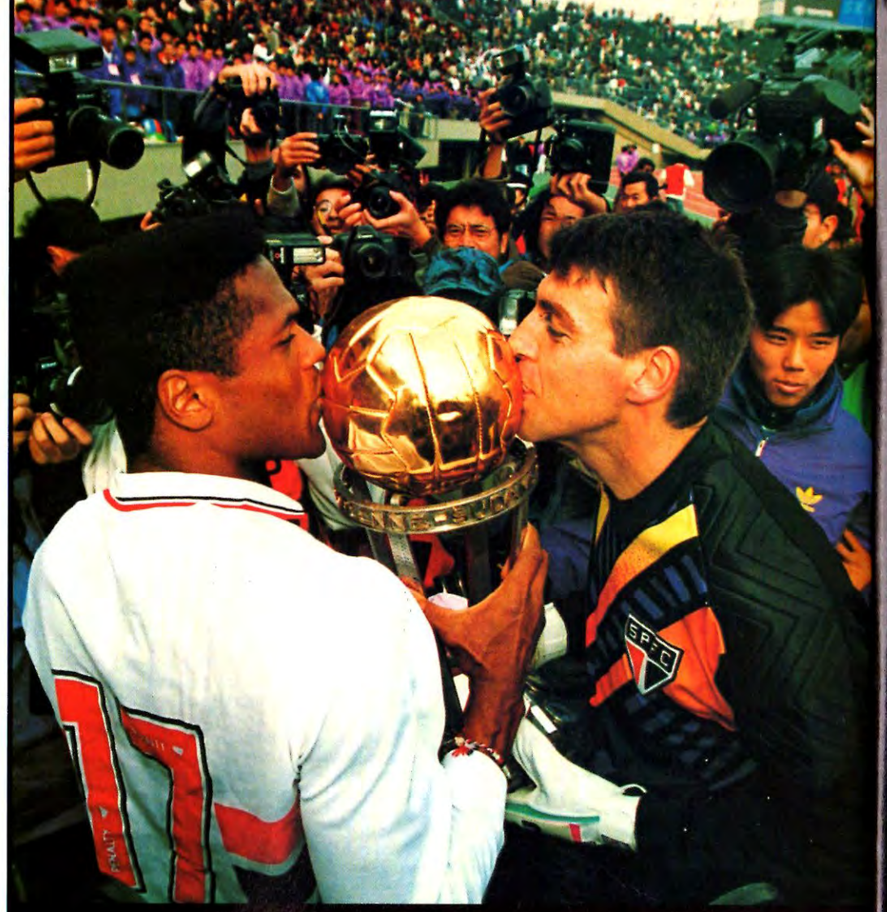
TOYOTA
EUROPEAN/SOUTH AMERICAN
CUP

1993 WORLD CLUB CUP
(Tokyo)

MILAN 2
(Massaro 48, Papin 82)

SAO PAULO 3
(Palhinha 20, Cerezo 59, Muller 86).

Milan: Rossi, Panucci, Costacurta, Baresi, Maldini, Donadoni, Desailly, Albertini (Tassotti 79), Massaro, Raducioiu (Orlando 79), Papin.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Cafu, Valber, Ronaldo, Andre, Cerezo, Doriva, Leonardo, Dinho, Palhinha (Juninho 64), Muller.
Man of the match: Cerezo (Sao Paulo).



SAO PAULO AGAIN

Rossi slip helps Brazilians retain trophy

A GOALKEEPING error by Sebastiano Rossi cost Milan their third Toyota Cup and enabled Sao Paulo to emulate their opponents as the only team to score two consecutive victories in Tokyo.

With four minutes to go, the Brazilians launched only their fifth real attack of the game. Toninho Cerezo's through ball did not appear particularly penetrating and Franco Baresi seemed to have it covered — but then veered away to let the giant Rossi come out and smoother at Muller's feet. But at the last second, Rossi turned away and lost his grasp of the ball, which bounced off Muller's ankle and into the net for a winner which even the scorer did not realise had happened.

So ended a match so one-sided that the statistics tell it best: Sao Paulo three goals from five efforts, Milan two from 20. And it widened the gap in the Tokyo series to a safe 9-5 for the South Americans.

If there is a Japanese version of "We was robbed", no doubt Milan had learnt it before returning empty-handed to Europe. Twice the stand-in European representatives came back from being a goal behind and each time they looked as though they would take over. Each time, the fine touch and the good fortune of the Brazilians foiled them.

First blood in an enthralling game in crisp December sunshine should have gone to Milan. Daniele Massaro fired a spectacular 25-yard volley against the underside of the crossbar, the ball bounced down to hit keeper Zetti on the back of the head and he grabbed it before it crossed the line.

It was only the first fine move of many from Massaro, running wide on the left of midfield, and the choice of most neutral observers as Best Player, rather than Cerezo.

Sao Paulo's first attack after 20 minutes produced a goal. The young and at times immature Andrew found Cafu on the right with a long cross-field pass and the full-back's centre was turned in by Palhinha.

Milan continued to make the running, with Roberto Donadoni, in particular, industrious in midfield, and shortly before half-time Jean-Pierre Papin shot straight at Zetti when Florin Radicioiu would have had an open target, in the best of the Italians' chances. But the equalizer came just after the break, the Brazilian defence caught static by Marcel Desailly's speculative high ball and Massaro sneaking around the blind side to slide it in through Zetti's legs.

Within 11 minutes, Sao Paulo had regained the lead, a rebound header putting the excellent Leonardo away on the left and his cross was missed by three Milan defenders before the veteran Cerezo turned it in at the far post.

Milan coach Fabio Capello, cruelly deprived of many injured stars including Brian Laudrup, Marco Van Basten, Zvonimir Boban, Gigi Lentini, Stefano Eranio and Marco Simone, and choosing not to field Dejan Savicevic after UEFA changed its mind whether or not the Montenegran was suspended after his red card for Red Star Belgrade in the 1991 Toyota Cup, made a strange double substitution with ten minutes remaining, introducing defenders Mauro Tassotti and Alessandro Orlando for the limping Demetrio Albertini and the totally ineffective Radicioiu.

By coincidence, within a minute Milan were level. Massaro cleverly back-heading Donadoni's pass for Papin to nod home. It looked this time as through Milan would take over completely — until Rossi's moment of indecision and Muller's goal which staked Sao Paulo's undeniable claim as the best club side in the world.

The Brazilians' success is remarkable, coming as it does at the end of a year in which they played no less than 95 matches. It certainly raised the chances of Tele Santana landing the Japan national team job, which was the main subject for the Japanese media.

The South American champions were admittedly not the same attractive outfit without Rai, and may now lose their other jewel, Cafu, to Real Madrid, where his former club-mate Vitor is said to be very unsettled.

For Milan, it was almost as if justice would not allow them, as replacements for the disgraced European Champions Marseille, to claim a third Toyota Cup.

Maybe football does have its own form of justice after all.

KEITH COOPER

Double top . . . Sao Paulo's Ronaldo and Zetti savour their victory (left).
Two up . . . Toninho Cerezo beats Milan's Rossi for Sao Paulo's second goal (above).
Stand off . . . Cerezo stops Milan new boy Marcel Desailly in a midfield duel (below).
Flat out . . . Milan's Jean-Pierre Papin after the final whistle (below right).

WHAT THEY SAID

FABIO CAPELLO: Sao Paulo played well but we were better. It was Rossi's mistake that cost us the game — I'm sure we would have won in extra time. I'm sure everyone will wonder if we would have won if Savicevic had played, as UEFA finally said he could; but I had chosen the team without him, and was hoping that Papin and Radicioiu would do better.

LEONARDO: Milan made it hard for us in the first half, but we had more room in the second. I don't think we were lucky to win, even if the last goal was a little strange. I'm delighted Cerezo was Man of the Match — he's a really special guy, even if we're all convinced he's five years older than he says!

JEAN-PIERRE PAPIN: It's another huge personal disappointment for me. First the Bari Final in 1991, then this year's Munich Final, then the Bulgarian World Cup match, and now this . . . I'm counting the days for 1993 to end!

RICH PICKINGS FOR SANTANA

THE contrast between the rich talent of Brazil's footballers and the poverty of the country's football administrators have never been clearer.

While 1994 ended on the worst imaginable note off the field, the players provided the best possible climax on it.

Over in Tokyo, Sao Paulo proved to Silvio Berlusconi that having a large bank balance does not always guarantee world club success as they beat Milan 3-2 to win the Cup for the second year running.

Before that, Tele Santana's team had become the first to achieve the Libertadores Cup/South American Supercup double when they beat Flamengo in a thrilling final to the latter competition. The Supercup may be a daft competition, with the same clubs taking part every year, but the all-Brazilian final made it nearly worthwhile with both legs ending 2-2 and Sao Paulo winning on penalties.

Having picked verbal fights with Corinthians manager Mario Sergio, Brazil assistant manager Mario Zagalo and referees in general, the rancorous Santana (above right) then found a new target for his regular tongue-lashings: pop star Michael Jackson.

Santana was livid when his team were forced to play a derby with Corinthians in the 40,000-capacity Paceambu stadium because Jackson was giving a concert at the 110,000 capacity Morumbi. "Football grounds are for playing football," he complained.

Palmeiras won the Brazilian championship, beating surprise team Vitoria, from Salvador in the North-East, 3-0 on aggregate in a one-sided final.

Though the final itself was not a memorable affair, the two semi-final groups (four teams in each) had provided some more absorbing battles, and Palmeiras were worthy winners. In Edmundo and Edilson, they have two of Brazil's most precious individual talents.

Vitoria had produced a major upset by winning group E ahead of Corinthians, Flamengo and Santos. They did it the hard way, throwing away two goal leads in three games before securing their place with a 1-1 draw away to Flamengo.

Flamengo, who have played in seven competitions in 1993 and disputed 98 games, fought heroically against fatigue, especially in the 2-2 draw away to Corinthians when they led twice. Renato, who has had a miserable year, ran himself into the ground and scored Flamengo's second goal.

Corinthians lost only one game in the whole competition, but it was a crucial one away to Vitoria. In the return, they were two behind after ten minutes, fought back to level the scores with 30 minutes to go but were unable to finish off their upstart opponents.

Group F turned into a two-horse race between Palmeiras and Sao Paulo. The former won the crucial game 2-0 after Sao Paulo's striker Palhinha had been sent off for attempting to repeat Diego Maradona's "hand of God" trick. But Palhinha was spotted and, having already been booked, saw red.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

URUGUAY

Big 30 for Penarol

ALTHOUGH faltering over the final weeks, Penarol won their 30th First Division title since the start of professional soccer in 1932 (and 41st counting the amateur era) but their first since 1986.

Penarol, leading for most of the season, had a seven-point lead at one stage, but it was touch and go on the final day when they could only draw 1-1 with Cerro and their closest rivals, Defensor Sporting, lost.

Penarol's final margin was two points while their striker, Marcelo Otero, shared top place in the scorers' table with veteran international Wilmar Cabrera (Huracan Buceo) on 12 goals, followed by Pablo Bengoecha (Penarol) 11 and Pablo Correa (Defensor) 10.

Celebrations following Penarol's championship win unfortunately finished with 37 fans detained by police, three injured with bullet wounds, broken shop windows all along Montevideo's fashionable 18 de Julio Avenue and looting.

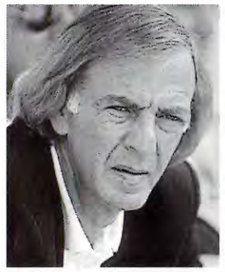
Uruguay's other big team, Nacional, finished fourth — seven points behind. Coach Miguel Piazza lost his job to be replaced by Eduardo Lujan Manera, one of the many players from Estudiantes de La Plata's Libertadores Cup-winning days, who became successful coaches (including Argentinian World Cup winner Carlos Bilardo).

The top four (Penarol, Defensor, Danubio, Nacional) qualify for the "Liquilla" from which the top two go into the Libertadores Cup. Progresso and Cerro (5th and 6th) meanwhile play with the promotion winners and three leading provincial teams for the other two "Liguilla" places.

In the professional title stakes, Penarol (30) is followed by Nacional (24), Defensor Sporting (3) and Central Espanol, Danubio, Progreso and Bella Vista (one each).

ARGENTINA

Menotti returns to Boca



CESAR MENOTTI, who coached Argentina to their first World Cup in 1978, is back at Boca Juniors.

The club had earlier signed him at the start of 1987 and he brought about an amazing transformation in the team, but he left suddenly after six months to join Spain's Barcelona.

It was said Menotti (above) was lured away by a bigger offer, but he left for family reasons and there were no hard feelings. (His son was on drugs and he was advised to change his habitat as a possible cure.)

Now, on his return to replace Jorge Habeggar — under whom Boca Juniors had been getting some poor results — he made his mark after only one week, playing goalkeeper Navarro Montoya as a sort of "libero". In his first two games Boca won at home and drew away and are still within striking distance in the National A Division's opening championship — in 10th place but only three points behind joint leaders Lanus and Velez Sarsfield with six games to go.

In 1987 I said Menotti was not the man for Boca Juniors because they did not have the players he needed for his style of play and he proved me wrong. Now they have many class players who had not been showing their potential. Meanwhile River Plate, who a month ago seemed to be the best bet for the title, have shown erratic form in recent weeks and dropped to a point behind the leaders.

At the other end of the table Newell's Old Boys have not been able to get away from the bottom in spite of having Diego Maradona in their line-up. He has only played a few matches becuase of international calls and injuries, and a muscle strain put him out of the last three games of the year.

Maradona still sprays some beautiful passes but rarely breaks into more than a trot. He is still an immense crowd puller and there was a rumour — quickly denied — that he would return to Boca Juniors at the end of the opening championship. Maradona has always said that his great wish was to end his plaing days with Boca Juniors of which he is a fan.

"I will stay with Newell's even if they are relegated," Maradona said.

ERIC WEIL

ECUADOR

JOINT leaders Barcelona and Nacional, and Emelec, a point behind, had title chances with one match to go.

Paraguayan striker Roberto Cabanas (right), who has the reputation of being the dirtiest player in South America, had his contract with Barcelona (up to August 1994) cancelled and was banned from leaving the country until he returned £30,000 of the £45,000 signing-on fee he received.

Cabanas, who joined Barcelona on loan from Boca Juniors last September, only played six games for the Ecuadorian champions due to his continual suspensions, the latest being for one year for attacking a referee.

VENEZUELA

TRUJILLANOS went down to their first defeat in their ninth First Division game to be caught up at the top by Caracas FC.

Two games were decided in unusual ways . . . Mineros got a "walkover" when the state's sports department would not let rival players of Zamora into the stadium as their club owed the department money.

Maritimo, leading 3-0 at the time, got the points in a match suspended 20 minutes before time when rivals Valencia were left with only six men on the field, three having been sent off and two injured after the two substitutions had been made.

CHILE

COLO COLO lead the Chilean First Division by three points with six games to go, followed by their eternal rivals Universidad Catolica and last season's champions Cobreloa.

But they have lost Bolivian international midfielder Marco Echeverry, out for four months following a ligament operation and are on the way to losing their Croatian coach Mirko Jozic, who has signed a two-year contract as national team coach.

Jozic became well known in Chile as coach of the Yugoslav team which won the Junior World Cup there in 1987. Then he won the title with Colo Colo for three years running before just failing to do so again last season, but during his spell Colo Colo also became the first Chilean club ever to win the Libertadores Cup in 1990.

Lucas Tudor established a new Chilean record by scoring seven of the eight goals for Universidad Catolica when they beat Deportes Antofagasta 8-3 recently.

PERU

UNIVERSITARIO de Deportes, with a solid team coached by Uruguayan Sergio Markarian, won the title for the second year running and 18th time altogether in pro soccer.

Argentinian-born, but naturalised goalkeeper Juan Zubczuk, Argentinian defender Marcelo Astegiano, Paraguayan midfielder Jorge Nunes, Uruguayan forward Tomas Silva and Argentinian-born striker Ronald Baroni were their mainstays together with home-grown defender Juan Reynoso and midfielders Roberto Martinez and Jose Carranza.

Peru's other popular team and town rivals, Alianza Lima, who have not managed to win the title for 15 years, finished second after topping the table for most of the season. They will now have to play off for the second Libertadores Cup place with clubs down to eighth place.

Title winners: Universitario 18, Sporting Cristal 11, Alianza Lima10, Sport Boys 4, Deportes Municipal, Mariscal Sucre, Union Huaral 2, Atletico Chalavco, Defensor Lima, Melgar and Colegio San Augustin 1.

COSTA RICA

COSTA RICA are looking up again. Their Under-23 team won the tournament of the Central American and Caribbean Games held in San Jose, Costa Rica — beating Mexico 2-0 in the final — while one of their leading clubs, Saprissa, won the CONCACAF club championship of which the four-team final round was held in Guatemala.

The club title finally hung on who would beat weak Robin Hood (Surinam) by the highest score. Leon (Mexico), Municipal (Guatemala) and Saprissa all drew against each other in the round-robin event, but while Municipal won 3-0 and Leon 4-0, both giving the impression of easing up after taking early leads, Saprissa scored steadily for their 9-1 victory to easily take the title on goal difference.

MEXICO

IN THE First Division, which has reached the halfway stage, America won eight straight games but then lost three straight and dropped into second place in Group C. The best record at half way is by two teams from the same city — Guadalajara and Universidad Autunoma de Guadalajara — with 26 points from 19 games, but America are still top scorers with 34.

PARAGUAY

Olimpia's early finish

OLIMPIA, unbeaten this season after 27 games, were running away with the championship as the final round was in progress when their great rivals, Cerro Porteno, stopped the competition.

First Olimpia's game with Colegiales had to be cancelled because unknown individuals had dug holes all over the field (curiously Cerro Porteno's field). Then Cerro Porteno obtained a court order to stop the championship because of rule infringements.

The loss of points (for apparently fielding an unregistered player) by Sport Colombia meant that Cerro Cora moved up into a tie with Presidente Hayes and forced a play-off for a final round place. But Presidente Hayes, not agreeing with the measure, decided not to turn up for the play-off which put Cerro Cora into the final round. But, said Cerro Porteno, the league's rules do not cover "walkovers" so that Cerro Cora's participation in the final round was unlawful . . . and the courts stopped play.

This prompted the national sports council to make the league investigate irregularities which, apart from breaking their own laws (also regarding registration of players), also included unclear handling of TV deals and ticket sales for recent World Cup qualifying games. As a result all Paraguayan FA officials ceased in their positions.

Surprisingly however at press time the 12 First Division clubs, who were against intervention, requested that the championship be declared finished with Olimpia crowned as champions while, according to rules, runners-up Cerro Porteno and national championship winners Cerro Cora should play off for the second Libertadores Cup places . . . and FIFA sent a fax threatening Paraguay with international suspension if government intervention did not cease by December 13. The Paraguayans were asking for an extension.

URUGUAY
First Division *(final standings)*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	24	16	4	4	50	19	36
Defensor	24	13	8	3	27	14	34
Danubio	24	13	6	5	29	18	32
Nacional	24	11	7	6	38	28	29
Progreso	24	6	13	5	24	23	25
Cerro	24	8	8	8	24	25	24
Wanderers	24	7	8	9	23	25	22
Rampla Juniors	24	5	11	8	17	24	21
Liverpool	24	6	8	10	16	24	20
River Plate	24	6	8	10	20	32	20
Ballas Vista	24	6	6	12	19	26	18
Huracan Buceo	24	5	8	11	31	43	18
Racing Club	24	3	7	14	10	27	13

VENEZUELA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Trujillanos	9	5	3	1	13
Caracas	9	5	3	1	13
Mineros Guyana	9	5	2	2	12
Tachira	9	5	1	3	11
Maritimox	9	5	1	3	11
Minerven	9	4	3	2	11
Italia	9	4	2	3	10
El Vigia	9	3	3	3	9
Univ. de los Andes	9	4	1	4	9
Llaneros	9	3	2	4	8
Zamora	9	2	4	3	8
Valencia	9	3	1	5	7
Estudiantes	9	3	1	5	7
Monagas	9	3	1	5	7
Maracaibo	9	2	1	6	5
Anzoategui	9	0	1	8	1

CHILE
First Division
After 24 games — 6 to go: 1) Colo Colo 37pts; 2) Cobreloa, Universidad Catolica 31; 4) Universidad de Chile 29; 5) Antofagasta 28; 6) Union Espanola, O'Higgins 27; 8) Temuco 23; 9) Everton 21; 10) Osorno 20; 11) Melipille, Coquimbo, La Serena, Palestino 19; 15) Iquique 18; 16) Concepcion 16.

COLOMBIA
First Division — *semi-final round, final standings*
Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	6	3	2	1	11	7	8.50
Jun. Barranquilla	6	3	1	2	9	9	8.50
Millonarios	6	2	1	3	9	8	5.00
Once Philips	6	1	2	3	4	9	5.00

Group B

America Cali	6	4	2	0	14	3	10.25
Indep. Medellin	6	2	3	1	13	10	8.00
Bucaramanga	6	2	0	4	15	0	4.00
Deportivo Cali	6	1	1	4	9	16	3.50

Final round

Nacional	2	2	0	0	8	2	4
Junior	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
America	2	1	0	1	2	5	2
Independiente	2	0	0	2	2	7	0

ARGENTINA
National A Division — *opening championship*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lanus	13	5	7	1	19	11	17
Velez Sarsfield	13	7	3	3	13	8	17
River Plate	13	7	2	4	19	10	16
Independiente	13	6	4	3	19	12	16
Racing Club	12	6	4	2	13	7	16
San Lorenzo	13	6	3	4	17	14	15
Banfield	13	5	5	3	14	10	15
FC Oeste	13	4	6	3	12	12	14
Gimnasia y Esg.	13	4	6	3	12	9	14
Boca Juniors	13	5	4	4	10	8	14
Belgrano	13	4	5	4	11	18	13
Dep. Mandiyu	13	4	4	5	17	13	12
Argentinos Jun	13	2	8	3	14	11	12
Rosario Central	13	2	7	4	13	19	11
Platense	13	2	7	4	8	15	11
Huracan	13	3	5	5	13	12	11
Gimnasia y Tiro	12	3	3	6	10	18	9
Dep.Espanol	13	2	5	6	5	17	9
Estudiantes	13	2	4	7	8	15	8
Newell's OB	13	1	6	6	11	20	8

PERU
First Division — *final standings*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Universitario	30	19	7	4	46	18	45
Alianza Lima	30	17	7	6	69	37	41
Sport Boys	30	16	9	5	58	32	41
Melgar	30	17	6	7	55	40	40
Sporting Cristal	30	16	5	9	68	33	37
Dep. Municipal	30	13	8	9	43	31	34
Deportivo Sipesa	30	12	8	10	38	28	32
Carlos Mannucci	30	12	6	12	36	40	30
Cienciano del C.	30	10	9	11	27	36	29
San Agustin	30	9	8	13	31	50	26
Leon de Huanuco	30	6	12	12	28	40	24
Union Minas	30	6	10	14	23	50	22
Alianza Atletico	30	6	10	14	35	64	22
Defensor Lima	30	7	7	16	46	55	21
Union Huaral	30	5	9	16	46	62	19
UT Cajamarca	30	6	7	17	32	65	19

ECUADOR
First Division — *final round*
After 13 games (one to go): 1) Emelec 17pts; 2) Nacional, Barcelona 16; 4) Delfin, Green Cross 13; 6) Liga Universitaria de Quito, Cuenca 11; 8) Deportivo Quito 7.

BOLIVIA
Professional League
After 4 games — Group A: 1) Bolivar, San Jose 5pts; 3) Oriente Petrolero 4; 4) Jorge Wilsterman 2; 5) Destroyers 0. ***Group B:*** 1) Blooming 6; 2) The Strongest 5; 3) Guabira, Independiente Petrolero 2; 5) Ciclon 1.

EL SALVADOR
First Division
After 17 games: 1) Luis A. Firpo 25pts; 2) Marte 19; 3) Baygon ADET Tiburones 18; 5) Alianza, FAS 17; 7) Municipal 16; 8) Aguila 15; 9) Apaneca 12; 10) Cojutepeque 11.

GUATEMALA
First Division
After 12 games: 1) Municipal 20pts; 2) Sacachispas 18; 3) Izabal, Chiquimulilla, Comunicaciones 13; 6) Mictlan, Suchitepequez, Amatitlan 12; 9) Aurora, Escuintla 10; 11) Xelaju 7; 12) Juventud Retalteca 4.

HONDURAS
First Division
After 9 games: 1) Real Espana 13pts; 2) Olimpia 12; 3) Marathon, Motagua 9; 5) Victoria 8; 6) Platense, Progreseno, Real Maya, Vida 7; 10) Petrotela 3.

PARAGUAY
First Division *(final round)*
Championship suspended at press time — after three games (bonus points included): 1) Olimpia 7pts; 2) Cerro Porteno 6,25; 3) Guarani 4,75; 4) Sportivo Luqueno 4,50; 5) River Plate 2,50; 6) Atletico Colegiales, Cerro Cora, Nacional 2.

MEXICO
First Division
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Necaxa	19	7	8	4	28	24	22
Puebla	19	6	9	4	25	22	21
Univ. Guadalajara	19	7	5	7	24	28	19
Santos	19	6	7	6	24	29	19
Univ. Nuevo Leon	19	2	11	6	16	25	15
Group 2							
Atlante	18	7	3	8	31	28	17
UNAM	19	7	3	9	33	28	17
Leon	18	5	6	7	20	26	16
Morelia	19	5	4	10	26	35	14
Queretaro	19	3	7	9	16	33	13
Group 3							
Toluca	19	9	5	5	28	19	23
America	18	10	1	7	34	26	21
Cruz Azul	19	8	5	6	28	18	21
Tamaulipas	18	4	8	6	21	23	16
Veracruz	19	3	7	9	25	38	13
Group 4							
Guadalajara	19	11	4	4	31	19	26
UA Guadalajara	19	8	10	2	24	12	26
Atlas	19	8	5	6	26	19	21
Monterrey	19	7	4	8	27	28	18
Hidalgo	19	7	4	8	23	30	18

Top two of each group qualify for play-offs.

COSTA RICA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alajuela	14	8	5	1	23	12	21
Heredia	14	9	2	3	20	9	20
Cartagines	14	6	7	1	20	11	19
San Carlos	14	6	4	4	15	15	16
San Ramon	14	5	5	4	13	10	15
Saprissa	13	5	4	4	17	15	14
Limon	14	4	6	4	12	13	14
Puntarenas	14	2	8	4	16	17	12
Perez Zeledon	14	3	5	6	9	16	11
Belem	14	2	5	7	11	20	9
Turrialba	13	3	2	8	15	19	8
Carmelita	14	2	3	9	12	26	7

BRAZIL
National Championship — *Upper divisions, final standings*
Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	14	10	4	0	27	8	24
Sao Paulo	14	5	7	2	19	12	17
Flamengo	14	6	4	4	17	16	16
Cruzeiro	14	6	2	6	22	15	14
Internacional PA	14	5	4	5	17	20	14
Bragantino	14	2	9	3	18	16	13
Bahia	14	2	4	8	10	29	8
Botafogo	14	2	2	10	7	21	6
Group B							
Palmeiras	14	10	2	2	27	14	22
Santos	14	8	4	2	24	14	20
Guarani	14	7	5	2	21	13	19
Gremio	14	6	3	5	20	17	15
Vasco da Gama	14	5	3	6	19	20	13
Sport Recife	14	4	3	7	10	21	11
Fluminense	14	3	2	9	18	26	8
Atletico Mineiro	14	1	2	11	7	21	4

Final placings of groups C and D published in last issue followed by play-off between leading teams from which Vitoria and Remo qualified for semi-final round with top three of groups A and B.

Walker walks away leaving Chase feeling blue

THE New Year was barely a week old when the first managerial switch of the year occurred, Mike Walker walking out on Norwich City to take charge of Everton.

Walker's departure left Norwich chairman Robert Chase in an angry mood, claiming Everton had illegally poached his man. Indeed, such was Chase's anger that he immediately sent a letter of protest to the Football Association demanding an inquiry.

Walker's motives for leaving are threefold. Firstly, he felt the £40,000, year-to-year contract he was on was not sufficient for a manger who took Norwich in to Europe for the first time this season. Secondly he, did not believe assurances given by Chase that Norwich would end the trend of selling their best players to balance the books and thirdly, the chance to manage one of the country's biggest clubs — with the opportunity to invest heavily in new players following Everton's pending board room takeover — was too great to resist.

Walker, having signed a three-and-a-half year contract at Everton, said: "I came here because of my ambition. The fact Everton are such a big club attracted me very much.

"Over the last month or so I realised Norwich's ambitions did not match my own. We've had success this season and I'm proud of my players.

"But there were certain areas in which I found I couldn't get assurances that we were ambitious and to a degree I understand why. Norwich are small club, don't get big attendances and they do things on a year-to-year basis.

"They have always been a selling club. And if you sell your best players you're going to limit your success.

"The potential at Everton is unlimited. I'm not kidding myself how tough it might be, but it's exciting. It's a dream move for me."

Now Chase could have a battle to keep the players who have sparked the greatest era Norwich have ever know. Winger Ruel Fox, whose talents recently drew a £2 million bid from Blackburn, said: "Mike leaving is a big blow to morale and I'll be going home to have a serious think about my future."

Assistant manager John Deehan is the favourite to take over at Carrow road and has been appointed caretaker.

Away from the managerial comings and goings, it is still Manchester United all the way on the pitch. Having completed their Christmas programme, the defending champions are 13 points clear at the top of the table, they face Portsmouth in the fifth round of the Coca-Cola Cup and successfully negotiated an awkward FA Cup third round tie with Sheffield United,

Looking back in anger . . . Mike Walker.

who knocked them out in the fifth round last season, despite having Mark Hughes sent off near the end after he had scored the only goal of the game.

United are so dominant at present that the best price you will get on them winning all three trophies is a miserly 11-1.

But there are signs that they are not entirely invincible, as the recent 3-3 draw with Liverpool at Anfield demonstrated when Graeme Souness's struggling side recovered a three-goal deficit to force a draw. Realistically though, nobody will catch them in the League. The chasing pack — Blackburn, Leeds, Arsenal and Newcastle — are quite capable of beating each other, but none have managed to take more than a point off Alex Ferguson's side.

The third round of the FA Cup provided the usual quota of upsets, most notably First Division Birmingham's home exit to GM Vauxhall Conference leaders Kidderminster. QPR suffered a similar fate, going down 2-1 at Second Division Stockport County, while Chelsea were held 0-0 by Barnet . . . who are bottom of the Second Division.

Unluckiest of all the non-League combatants were Bromsgrove Rovers of the GM Conference, who led Barnsley 1-0 until two minutes from time when the First Division strugglers scored twice to advance to the fourth round. Other notable performances included Peterborough's draw with Tottenham, Port Vale's 1-1 draw at Southampton, non-League Bath's 0-0 draw at Stoke and Portsmouth's 3-3 draw at Blackburn, where Alan McLoughlin scored a hat-trick as Pompey came from behind three times.

The lights went out on Bristol City's hopes of defeating Liverpool — at the first time of asking, anyway. Floodlight failure led to the game being abandoned after 65 minutes, with the score at 1-1.

JOHN KELLY

Glorious Glenavon

GLENAVON, looking to win their first League title since 1960, created a new club record in December when they won 12 successive League matches.

The Lurgan-based side have added goalscoring strength to their other qualities and forwards Steven McBride and team captain Glenn Ferguson have scored half their team's haul.

Chasing their County Armagh rivals were Portadown who, surprisingly, slipped up away to Ballyclare Comrades when they lost 2-0. Indeed lowly Ballyclare seem to have the "Indian sign" over Portadown, having drawn once and won twice against them in the past three seasons.

Defending champions Linfield have stumbled of late and were involved in an unsavoury incident following a 2-2 draw away to Distillery. Much-respected referee Frank McDonald sent off two Linfield players — midfielders Lee Doherty and Des Gorman — and there was crowd trouble after the match ended at 4.45pm. However the referee and Distillery captain, 33-year-old Seamus Heath, were not able to leave the ground for almost two hours.

Ards, struggling in the bottom half of the League, had a grand day out when they hit nine goals without reply against bottom club Newry Town. The 9-0 victory was the highest league victory since Glentoran beat Cliftonville by the same scoreline on Boxing Day, 1972.

How long-suffering Glentoran fans would enjoy a scoreline like that now! With their club out of the title race, the team was booed off the pitch following yet another poor display, when they went down 2-0 at home to Distillery.

Nottingham Forest keeper Tommy Wight was named International Player of the Year following excellent World Cup displays.

Manager Billy Bingham reckons that, at long last, Northern Ireland has found a keeper worthy to fill the gloves of the great Pat Jennings.

Young International Player of the Year was winger Michael Hughes, currently in France with Strasbourg.

The odds are that Jimmy Nicholl, assistant to Bingham for the last 18 months and manager of Raith Rovers in Scotland, will be given first refusal when Bingham retires.

A minute's silence was observed at all Irish League matches following the death of Danny Blanchflower. As well as playing 56 times for his country, Blanchflower also managed the national team for 24 matches in the mid-1970s.

ROY KITSON

Rangers under threat

AFTER years of supreme dominance the aura of fallibility has now fallen upon Rangers, exemplified in their 3-0 home defeat by Dundee United, the Ibrox club's heaviest league defeat for many years.

In many ways, United's victory has been regarded as a landmark. The comprehensive win has illustrated that Rangers are vulnerable and the gauntlet has been thrown down to the other Premier Division clubs, challenging them to help end the unhealthy recent monopoly.

In the last issue of *WORLD SOCCER* the various traumas being suffered by United's Croatian manager Ivan Golac were highlighted, but the Ibrox result has acted as a suitable painkiller. The Tannadice boss now looks to be well on his way towards achieving his pre-season objective of "creating a team which would excite the fans."

One of the principle reasons behind the turn-round in the club's fortunes has been the form of Golac's fellow countryman Gordan Petric, who arrived on Tayside in November from Partizan Belgrade. The big central defender has instilled confidence in those around him and he has adapted well to the Scottish game, an uncharacteristic quality for a continental import.

As well as using his wide range of skills when manouvering the ball from defence, Petric has also demonstrated that he is not averse to reverting to the old fashioned punt up the park when circumstances dictate.

Rangers's problems were magnified towards the end of the Dundee United game when midfielder Iain Ferguson was ordered off for spitting at Petric. Spitting is, thankfully, relatively rare in Scotland and an especially serious view has been taken of Ferguson's indiscretion, both by his club, who have fined him £8,000, and by the SFA, who will undoubtedly inflict a lengthy suspension on the player.

One of the more positive stories to have emerged of late has been the welcome comeback of former Celtic striker Tommy Coyne following the untimely death of his wife Margaret a few months ago.

Coyne was playing in England for Tranmere Rovers at the time of the tragedy but moved back to Glasgow with his children in the aftermath. A number of clubs, including Kilmarnock, Partick Thistle and Hearts were interested but were subsequently deterred by Tranmere's asking price.

A deal was struck, however, with Motherwell and Coyne has settled in well to the Fir Park side, scoring five times in his first four games and looking delighted to be back.

His contribution is helping Motherwell sustain their unexpected challenge at the top of the Premier Division and he is doubtless retaining hopes of a recall to the Republic of Ireland squad.

ALAN FAIRLEY

Yorath reign seems over

TERRY YORATH'S reign as manager seems all but over with the FAW turning down his proposals regarding a new contract, resulting in it being terminated on December 31.

There seem to be differences between each side's version of the facts and 11th-hour talks between Yorath and FAW chief executive Alun Evans could yet result in his generally popular re-appointment.

The players are 100 per cent behind Yorath, while public support seems heavily in his favour despite World Cup failure. Unofficially though, other names are being bandied about as possible successors — and no FAW official is prepared to confirm or deny any approaches.

Those apparently about to be considered are Terry Venables, John Toshack, Bobby Robson and David Williams, the first three of whom are likely to ask more than Yorath's requested salary.

The Champions Cup's disappearance in favour of the new UEFA Champions League puts a worrying question mark over the future of the National League. Hopes of a UEFA Cup place have been crushed with the champions "demoted" to this competition with the likelihood that Wales will be among the 10 nations NOT to be awarded the usual UEFA place.

Representations to the European Court are being made by a few of the smaller nations — Wales included — to test the legality of UEFA's move under European Law and should the second spot not become available then disillusion could well set in within the Konica League clubs' ranks.

Leaders in the championship race are newly promoted Ton Pentre ahead of early favourites and pace-setters Inter Cardiff. The long-awaited top-of-the-table clash resulted in a 3-1 win for the Rhondda side at Inter's Ninian Park home. Their direct tactics were more effective and this defeat ended Inter's unbeaten home run and extended Ton Pentre's undefeated sequence to 12 matches.

Bangor City kept third spot despite going down 1-0 to up-and-coming Conwy United, currently in seventh place. Ebbw Vale's early form has deserted them with elimination looking likely from the Welsh Cup after being held 1-1 at home by Connah's Quay Nomads.

Elsewhere in that competition, Second Division Barry Town thrashed Konica side Holywell Town 4-0, while in an all-Konica tie Fflint Town United put out Briton Ferry Athletic after a replay. Cardiff City won 2-0 in Wrexham in an all-pro clash, while the third professional side Swansea City beat last year's runners-up Rhyl FC. Inter Cardiff had to equalise a minute from time to snatch a replay against Fifth Division Porthcawl Town.

Dave Taylor remains the Konica's leading League goal scorer with 22 goals.

MEL AP IOR THOMAS

RESULTS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester Utd	22	16	5	1	44	18	53
Leeds United	22	11	7	4	37	25	40
Blackburn	21	11	6	4	29	18	39
Arsenal	22	10	7	5	24	13	37
Newcastle Utd	21	10	6	5	38	20	36
Norwich	20	9	7	4	33	22	34
QPR	21	10	4	7	36	28	34
Liverpool	21	9	5	7	33	26	31
Aston Villa	21	8	7	6	24	23	31
Sheffield Wed	21	7	9	6	39	29	30
Ipswich	22	7	9	6	21	25	30
West Ham	22	8	6	8	19	26	30
Wimbledon	21	7	7	7	24	28	28
Tottenham	22	6	9	7	30	27	27
Coventry	21	6	9	6	23	25	27
Everton	22	7	4	11	20	28	25
Manchester City	21	4	7	10	19	27	19
Oldham	22	4	7	11	16	34	19
Sheffield Utd	22	3	9	10	18	33	18
Southampton	22	5	2	15	22	34	17
Chelsea	20	3	6	11	13	25	15
Swindon	22	2	8	12	19	47	14

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

MIDWEEK

MANCHESTER UTD 0
IPSWICH 0. Att: 43,300.

BLACKBURN 2 (Shearer 32, 63)
COVENTRY 1 (Ndiovu 62). Att: 15,136.

ASTON VILLA 0
SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Le Tissier 50, 62). Att: 16,180.

EVERTON 1 (Cottee 67)
LEEDS 1 (Wallace 53). Att: 17,066.

SWINDON 1 (Scott 36)
QPR 0. Att: 14,147.

WEST HAM 0
ARSENAL 0. Att: 20,279.

NEWCASTLE 4 (Sellars 9, Beardsley 12 pen, 73, Cole 70)
SHEFFIELD UTD 0. Att: 35,101.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Barmby 6)
WIMBLEDON 1 (Holdsworth 72). Att: 17,744.

SHEFFIELD WED 0
OLDHAM 3 (Watson 7, 32, Jemson 64). Att: 18,509.

CHELSEA 0
MAN CITY 0. Att: 10,000.

WEEKEND

COVENTRY 0
MANCHESTER UTD 1 (Cantona 60). Att: 17.020.

LEEDS 3 (Deane 80, Rod Wallace 86, Speed 87)
SWINDON 0. Att: 32,630.

ARSENAL 2 (Wright 15, Smith 60)
NEWCASTLE 1 (Beardsley 61). Att: 36,091.

OLDHAM 2 (Sharp 47, Makin 62)
NORWICH 1 (Sutton 55). Att: 10,198.

QPR 1 (Ferdinand 2)
TOTTENHAM 1 (Anderton 84). Att: 17,694.

LIVERPOOL 2 (Fowler 45, Redknapp 62)
ASTON VILLA 1 (Atkinson 53). Att: 38,484.

WIMBLEDON 1 (Berry 48)
EVERTON 1 (Barlow 33). Att: 6,934.

IPSWICH 1 (Youds 41)
BLACKBURN 0. Att: 14,582.

MAN CITY 1 (Sheron 86)
SHEFFIELD WED 3 (Jones 66, Bart-Williams 75, Jemson 84). Att: 3,416.

SHEFFIELD UTD 1 (Falconer 32)
CHELSEA 0. Att: 16,119.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

MIDWEEK

SOUTHAMPTON 0
WEST HAM 2 (Morley 31, Chapman 38). Att: 13,258.

COCA-COLA CUP — 4TH ROUND

ARSENAL 0
ASTON VILLA 1 (Atkinson 4). Att: 26,453.

EVERTON 0
MAN UTD 2 (Hughes 12, Giggs 46). Att: 34,052.

PETERBOROUGH 0
PORTSMOUTH 0. Att: 6,141.

TRANMERE 3 (Brannan 53, 60, Aldridge 88)
OLDHAM 0. Att: 9,477.

LIVERPOOL 1 (Molby 15 pen)
WIMBLEDON 1 (Earle 84). Att: 19,290.

NOTTM. FOREST 0
MAN CITY 0. Att: 22,195.

QPR 1 (Meaker 41)
SHEFFIELD WED 2 (Jemson 32, Jones 87). Att: 13,253.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Campbell 65)
BLACKBURN 0. Att: 22,295.

WEEKEND

COVENTRY 1 (Quinn 79)
ARSENAL 0. Att: 12,722.

EVERTON 0
SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Cottee 35). Att: 13,660.

IPSWICH 0
OLDHAM 0. Att: 12,004.

LEEDS 3 (Wallace 11, Speed 22, Deane 85)
MAN CITY 2 (Sheron 54, Griffiths 60). Att: 33,821.

MANCHESTER UTD 2 (Giggs 30, McClair 42)
NORWICH 2 (Sutton 31, Fox 47 pen). Att: 44,694.

QPR 2 (McGrath 5 og, Penrice 40)
ASTON VILLA 2 (Richardson 26, Parker 47). Att: 14,915.

SHEFFIELD WED 3 (Ruddock 30 og, Wright 58 og, Bright 80)
LIVERPOOL 1 (Fowler 37). Att: 32,177.

SWINDON 0
SHEFFIELD UTD 0. Att: 12,734.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Barmby 61 pen)
NEWCASTLE 2 (Beardsley 55, 90). Att: 30,780.

WIMBLDON 1 (Holdsworth 82)
WEST HAM 2 (Chapman 45, 79). Att: 10,903.

BLACKBURN 2 (Le Saux 15, Shearer 90)
CHELSEA 0. Att: 15,736.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

MIDWEEK

ARSENAL 1 (Wright 65)
TOTTENHAM 1 (Anderton 25). Att: 35,669.

OLDHAM 2 (Holden 12, Redmond 85)
SWINDON 1 (Mutch 72). Att: 9,771.

SHEFF UTD 0
MAN UTD 3 (Hughes 13, Sharpe 27, Cantona 60). Att: 26,744.

ASTON VILLA 2 (Cox 29, Saunders 53 pen)
SHEFFIELD WED 2 (Bart-Williams 24, Teale 69 og). Att: 20,304.

LIVERPOOL 3 (Barnes 25, Rush 32, Molby 79 pen)
QPR 2 (Ferdinand 10, Barker 46). Att: 24,561.

MAN CITY 1 (Griffiths 10)
EVERTON 0. Att: 20,513.

SOUTHAMPTON 0
IPSWICH 1 (Kiwomya 54). Att: 9,028.

WEST HAM 0
LEEDS 1 (Rod Wallace 84). Att: 20,468.

WEEKEND

ASTON VILLA 0
WIMBLEDON 1 (Holdsworth 77). Att: 17,940.

CHELSEA 1 (Peacock 23)
IPSWICH 1 (Kiwomya 55). Att: 12,508.

LIVERPOOL 2 (Barnes 71, Wright 86)
SWINDON 2 (Moncur 60, Scott 73). Att: 32,739.

MAN CITY 0
TOTTENHAM 2 (Dozzell 64, 87). Att: 21,566.

NEWCASTLE 1 (Cole 71)
MAN UTD 1 (Ince 59). Att: 36,388.

OLDHAM 1 (Holden 40)
BLACKBURN 2 (Shearer 26, 49).

SHEFF UTD 0
EVERTON 0. Att: 15,135.

SOUTHAMPTON 0
QPR 1 (Ferdinand 2). Att: 11,946.

WEST HAM 3 (Breacker 11, Butler 40, Morley 57 pen)
COVENTRY 2 (Darby 41, 77). Att: 17,243.

ARSENAL 1 (Wright 90)
SHEFFIELD WED 0. Att: 22,026.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

MIDWEEK

NORWICH 2 (Sutton 44, Ekoku 81)
LEEDS 1 (Wallace 67). Att: 16,586.

COCA-COLA CUP — 4TH ROUND REPLAYS

WIMBLEDON 2 (Holdsworth 18, Earle 70
LIVERPOOL 2 (Ruddock 38, Segers 90 og). Att: 11,343. *Aet, Wimbledon won 4-3 on pens.*

MAN CITY 1 (Vonk 16)
NOTTM. FOREST 2 (Webb 72, Cooper 86). Att: 14,117.

PORTSMOUTH 1 (Kristensen 118).
PETERBOROUGH 0. Att: 9,634. *After extra time.*

WEEKEND

MANCHESTER UTD 3 (Cantona 21, 90, Ince 91)
ASTON VILLA 1 (Cox 92). Att: 44,499.

LEEDS 2 (McAllister 21, Adams 60 og)
ARSENAL 1 (Campbell 27). Att: 37,515.

BLACKBURN 2 (Gallacher 13, Shearer 76)
MAN CITY 0. Att:18,741.

EVERTON 0
NEWCASTLE 2 (Cole 14, Beardsley 76). Att: 25, 189.

IPSWICH 2 (Wark 8 pen, Megson 90 og)
NORWICH 1 (Bowen 40). Att: 19,498.

TOTTENHAM 3 (Samways 37, Hazard 69 pen, Caskey 76)
LIVERPOOL 3 (Fowler 49, 55 pen, Redknapp 52). Att: 31,394.

SHEFFIELD WED 5 (Marsh 35 og, Bright 47, Waddle 51, Jemson 72, Palmer 87)
WEST HAM 0. Att: 26,350.

WIMBLEDON 2 (Barton 49, Holdsworth 67)
SHEFFIELD UTD 0. Att: 6,728.

COVENTRY 1 (Wegerle 29)
OLDHAM 1 Holden 50). Att: 11,800.

SWINDON 2 (Bodin 12, Scott 66)
SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Le Tissier 38). Att: 13,284.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdeen	24	10	11	3	32	18	31
Rangers	24	11	8	5	38	26	30
Motherwell	23	12	5	6	32	24	29
Celtic	23	9	10	4	28	17	28
Hibernian	24	10	7	7	34	28	27
Kilmarnock	23	7	10	6	21	21	24
Dundee Utd	24	6	12	6	24	25	24
Partick Thistle	24	6	9	9	29	35	21
Hearts	24	5	10	9	18	24	20
St Johnstone	23	5	8	10	19	30	18
Raith Rovers	23	4	10	9	25	39	18
Dundee	23	4	4	15	22	35	12

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

MIDWEEK

CELTIC 2 (McGinlay 32, 79)
MOTHERWELL 0. Att: 16,654.

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 4 (Kane 36, Connor 79, Shearer 84, Grant 89)
HIBERNIAN 0. Att: 12,500.

CELTIC 2 (Collins 2, 61)
RAITH ROVERS 0. Att:17,450.

PARTICK 1 (English 21)
RANGERS 1 (Huistra 66). Att: 17,290.

ST JOHNSTONE 0
KILMARNOCK 1 (Williamson 27). Att: 4,600.

DUNDEE v DUNDEE UTD — *postponed*

HEARTS v MOTHERWELL — *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

MIDWEEK

DUNDEE UTD 1 (Connolly 72)
CELTIC 0. Att: 10,108.

HIBERNIAN 0
ST JOHNSTONE 0. Att: 5,011.

KILMARNOCK 0
HEARTS 0. Att: 6,948.

MOTHERWELL 1 (O'Donnell 71)
PARTICK 0. Att: 5,362.

RAITH ROVERS 2 (Dalziel 6, 42)
DUNDEE 1 (Wieghorst 17). Att: 2,993.

RANGERS 2 (Hateley 28, 42)
ABERDEEN 0. Att: 45,182.

WEEKEND

DUNDEE UTD 0
KILMARNOCK 0. Att: 7,100.

PARTICK 3 (Taylor 14, Craig 59, 73 pen)
DUNDEE 2 (Tosh 33, Dodds 89). Att: 6,800.

MOTHERWELL 0
RANGERS 2 (Durie 37, 61). Att: 14,069.

CELTIC 1 (McGinlay 68)
ST JOHNSTONE 0. Att: 16,751.

RAITH ROVERS 1 (Graham 28)
HIBERNIAN 2 (Wright 21, Frindlay 34). Att: 4,407.

HEARTS 1 (Colquhoun 6)
ABERDEEN 1 (Shearer 75). Att: 9,402.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

MIDWEEK

DUNDEE 1 (Farningham 54)
DUNDEE UTD 2 (Brewster 7, Connolly 78). Att: 9,156.

RAITH 1 (Dalziel 41)
ABERDEEN 1 (Miller 31). Att: 4,205.

WEEKEND

DUNDEE 1 (Ristic 38)
CELTIC 1 (Creaney 62). Att: 8,250.

HIBERNIAN 3 (Wright 56, Findlay 70, Mitchell 85)
MOTHERWELL 2 (Coyne 60, 68). Att: 7,442.

KILMARNOCK 1 (Brown 25)
RAITH 0. Att: 6,012.

RANGERS 0
DUNDEE UTD 3 (Bowman 1, Connolly 15, Brewster 21). Att: 43,058.

ST JOHNSTONE 2 (Scott 25) davies 34)
HEARTS 0. Att: 4,612.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

MIDWEEK

HEARTS 2 (Johnston 11, Leitch 66)
MOTHERWELL 3 (Coyne 41, 5, McKinnon 51). Att: 5,531.

ABERDEEN 2 (Irvine 56, Shearer 60)
PARTICK THISTLE 1 (Craig 80). Att: 3,500.

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 3 (Miller 39, Shearer 59, Richardson 58)
KILMARNOCK 1 (Skilling 84). Att: 9,500.

CELTIC 1 (McStay 7)
HIBERNIAN 0. Att: 16,793.

DUNDEE 1 (Ristic 18)
MOTHERWELL 3 (O'Donnell 5, 31, Coyne 74 pen). Att: 4,37.

HEARTS 0
RAITH ROVERS 1 (Sinclair 25). Att: 6,227.

PARTICK 1 (Craig 30)
DUNDEE UTD 0. Att: 4,365.

ST JOHNSTONE 0
RANGERS 4 (Hateley 14, 20, Steven 51, Durie 78). Att: 10,058.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

ACTION: Liechtenstein lose 2-0 at home to Estonia . . . in the European Under-21s there are wins for Turkey (1-0 v Poland), Czechoslovakia (2-0 v Cyprus), Hungary (2-0 v Luxembourg) and Israel (6-0 v Austria).

FRANCE: Bernard Tapie says he will quit as president of Marseille before the end of the season to concentrate on politics . . . Marseille vice-president Jean-Louis Levreau says an agreement is close on the loan of ex-Yugoslav striker Darko Pancev from Internazionale.

GERMANY: Borussia Monchengladbach, ordered to replay their third round Cup victory over Karlsruhe because of crowd problems, win again — this time by 1-0.

ITALY: Ruud Gullit says he hopes to end his national team retirement if Holland qualify for the World Cup finals and Johan Cruyff takes over from Dick Advocaat as head coach . . . Lazio decide to send Paul Gascoigne home to England for further consultations on his niggling Achilles heel injury.

SCOTLAND: Celtic appoint Stoke's Lou Macari (above), a former Celtic player, as manager in succession to Liam Brady.

SPAIN: Barcelona striker Romario agrees to undergo a minor operation on his left eye during the Christmas break.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

ACTION: World Cup victories for Turkey (2-1 v Poland), Czechoslovakia (a significant 3-0 v Cyprus) and Hungary (1-0 v Luxembourg) while Israel and Austria draw 1-1.

AUSTRIA: Rapid Vienna face closure by the end of the year after *Bank Austria* serves notice of its intention to dump a 37% stake it inherited when it took over a private bank.

BULGARIA: Levski's players relent over their threatened boycott of the decisive World Cup qualifier against France.

GERMANY: National coach Berti Vogts admits that, despite his new open-ended contract, he will consider quitting if Germany disappoint in their World Cup defence next year . . . the DFB denies having switched the Germany v England friendly next April from Munich to Hamburg to avert potential trouble from neo-Nazis celebrating Hitler's birthday.

ITALY: Giant-killing success is the order of the evening in the second round of the Italian Cup for Venezia (v Juventus), Ancona (v Napoli) and Avellino (v Lazio).

QATAR: US '94 security chief Ed Best dismisses fears that Iraq and/or Iran might be refused entry for the World Cup finals if they qualify. He says: "It is my understanding we are going to welcome any team that qualifies."

SWITZERLAND: FIFA says 22 referees plus 22 linesmen will be appointed to the World Cup finals. A squad of 26 referees and 24 linesmen will be chosen to attend a training camp in Dallas in March and selection will be made after fitness tests have been completed.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

ACTION: The World Cup Asian finals end in the most dramatic way, with three simultaneous matches resolving the two places for the US in favour of Saudi Arabia (4-3 v Iran) and South Korea (3-0 v North Korea). South Korea squeeze in thanks only to the last-minute equaliser scored by Iraq in their 2-2 draw with Japan, who miss out on goal difference.

BRAZIL: Attendances continue to slump. Only 187 see Goias v Fortaleza in the national championship and 9,000 watch Flamengo's South American Supercup tie against River Plate of Argentina in Maracana.

FRANCE: The eagerly-awaited report on the accounts of Marseille is handed to league president Noel Le Graet but he says no statement wil be issued until next week. Marseille president Bernard Tapie has indicated debts of £8million.

GERMANY: Anthony Yeboah tells Eintracht Frankfurt he will be ready to start training next week after his knee operation and may be fit for the last two games before the winter break . . . Russian winger Sergei Kiryakov extends until 1997 his contract with Karlsruhe.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA rules that the World Cup qualifier between Northern and the Republic of Irelands should go ahead as scheduled on November 17 despite the escalation of violence.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

BRAZIL: Palmeiras midfielder Sampaio is held up and robbed at gunpoint as he gets into his car in Sao Paulo.

ENGLAND: West Brom prepare a contract offer for Nigerian World Cup defender Austin Eguavon who has been on trial while out of contract with Belgian club Kortrijk.

GERMANY: Dynamo Dresden decide to appeal against the four-point deduction imposed by the DFB for irregularities regarding player contracts.

PORTUGAL: Portugal offer to host World Cup opponents Estonia for the full week between the Baltic state's World Cup qualifiers against Portugal and Switzerland — because the Estonians do not enough funds to stop over.

ROMANIA: Veteran Univ. Craiova goalkeeper Silviu Lung retires after 25 years in the game. He says: "The four goals I let in against Paris Saint-Germain persuaded me I have become too old."

SOUTH KOREA: Officials follow up their World Cup qualifying success by announcing South Korea's intention to apply to host the 2002 World Cup finals, as a rival to Japan. Chung Mong-joon, president of the KFA, says: "We will tell people we have qualified for the World Cup three times consecutively and four times in all. Japan have never been there."

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

ACTION: Bayern Munich thrash Kaiserslautern 4-0 with two goals from Adolfo Valencia to edge within three points of German leaders Frankfurt . . . Benfica go top in Portugal on goal difference after beating Salgueiros 4-1 while Sporting lose 2-1 to Boavista . . . Atletico Madrid stage an amazing comeback, beating Barcelona 4-3 after being 3-0 down at half-time and despite the expulsion of midfielder Pirri.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA could begin using semi-professional referees in next season's European cup competitions and the 1996 European Championship qualifying series, says president Lennart Johansson.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

ACTION: Australia and Argentina, led by Diego Maradona, draw 1-1 in their World Cup play-off in Sydney . . . Nigerian police use tear gas to quell fans after Stationery Stores beat Zamalek of Egypt 1-0 in the second leg of their African Champions semi-final but lose 3-2 overall after having two goals disallowed. Asante Kotoko of Ghana beat ASEC of Ivory Coast 2-0 and on away goals (agg 3-3) in the other semi-final . . . Ruud Gullit takes magnificent revenge, making one goal and scoring the winner as Sampdoria recover from 2-0 down to beat his old club Milan 3-2, their first defeat of the season. Roberto Baggio (Juventus v Genoa) and Roben Sosa (Inter v Parma) both score hat-tricks.

IRAN: National coach Ali Parvin and his four aides are fired in the wake of Iran's World Cup qualifying failure in Qatar.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1

AUSTRALIA: Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl says he considers Diego Maradona was not fit enough for the weekend World Cup play-off; several Argentine players call for Oscar Ruggeri to be reappointed captain for the return in Buenos Aires; Australia's David Mitchell says he does not want to be considered for the second leg out of anger at being used only for the last 17 minutes in Sydney.

ENGLAND: Liverpool win the vote over Mersey rivals Everton for the right to stage matches during the 1996 European Championship finals. The other grounds confirmed by the FA are Wembley, Villa Park, Old Trafford (Man United), Hillsborough (Sheffield Wed), Elland Road (Leeds), St James' Park (Newcastle) and the City Ground (Nottingham). Concern over Nottingham's projected capacity of 31,000 means Arsenal's Highbury is on standby. The launch and qualifying draw are confirmed for January 22 before Manchester United's home game against Everton.

NORWAY: Brann Bergen sell World Cup defender Tore Pedersen to Oldham for £500,000.

SOUTH KOREA: South Korean President Kim Young-sam says his country wants to make a joint bid with North Korea to host the 2002 World Cup.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

ACTION: Shock result in the first European club volleys of the week is the 7-0 thrashing inflicted on Spanish league leaders Valencia at Karlsruhe in the UEFA Cup . . . Juventus defender Julio Cesar (left) is ruled out for six weeks after breaking his right leg for the second time in a year in the 2-0 UEFA Cup victory over Norwegian side Kongsvinger.

BELGIUM: Cercle Brugge dismiss Dutch coach Henk Houwaart and replace him with Georges Leekens, now home after a spell in Turkey with Trabzonspor.

IVORY COAST: One person is killed and 120 injured as Ivory Coast residents attack Ghanaian residents in the wake of ASEC's defeat by Asante Kotoko on Sunday in the African Champions Cup.

NORWAY: World Cup midfielder Lars Bohinen joins Nottingham Forest for £450,000 from Lillestrom.

RUSSIA: Newspaper *Izvestia* claims CSKA Moscow and Dynamo Moscow fixed their 1-1 draw the previous Sunday to save CSKA from relegation and improve Dynamo's bid for a UEFA Cup place. *Izvestia* also claims that strugglers Zhemchuzhina Sochi and KamAZ Naberezhnye Chelny fixed a draw a month earlier.

SWITZERLAND: Bulgarian striker Petar Aleksandrov demands a transfer from champions Aarau after failing to score in eight matches and being substituted in his last league game.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

ACTION: Shock of the night is the ousting of Manchester United by Galatasaray on away goals in the Champions Cup. The Turks thus enter the lucrative Champions League along with Milan, Monaco, Barcelona, Werder Bremen, Moscow Spartak, Anderlecht and FC Porto.

FRANCE: League president Noel Le Graet predicts the resignation within a week of Bernard Tapie as president of Marseille.

ITALY: Udinese sign Danish defender Thomas Helveg from

OB on a six-month contract . . . Milan's Gianluigi Lentini (above) is given the all-clear to start full training after recovering from injuries suffered in his summer car crash.

ENGLAND: The FA fine Tottenham a record £25,000 for poaching manager Ossie Ardiles away from West Brom.

ROMANIA: A court ruling that Dinamo Bucharest must be returned to the control of their original army sports club controllers is considered as a threat to the club's existence because it will contravene new professional regulations.

SWITZERLAND: Uli Stielike quits as trainer of Neuchatel Xamax. Don Givens is appointed caretaker until the end of the season . . . Grasshopper's Brazilian striker Giovane Elber may lose the sight in his left eye, according to club doctor Roger Berbig, after being injured at the weekend in a clash with Lucerne's Dutch defender Rene Van Eck.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

AUSTRIA: Werder Bremen midfielder Andreas Herzog is recalled to Austria's squad for the "dead" World Cup-tie against Sweden. Squad: Wohlfahrt, Konsel; Streiter, Kogler, Pfeffer, Winklhofer; Artner, Feiersinger, Baur, Herzog, Reinmayr, Stoeger, Floegel; Polster, Pfeifenberger, Westerthaler.

ENGLAND: Blackburn finally buy England goalkeeper Tim Flowers from Southampton for £2.4million . . . Tony Daley's proposed transfer from Aston Villa to Udinese collapses.

FRANCE: Michel Platini is revealed to have turned down an informal request from the French league to head a rescue consortium at Marseille . . . Bernard Tapie gives evidence to a parliamentary committee which must consider whether or not to recommend that his parliamentary immunity be lifted.

GERMANY: Martin Dahlin, who had been reported as on the brink of transferring to Bordeaux, signs a new two-and-a-half year contract with Borussia Monchengladbach. But Borussia conclude the sale of Danish midfielder Johnny Molby to Mechelen of Belgium.

ITALY: Half the Albania Under-21 team stay in Italy after a friendly against a regional league side. Only eight players and one official fly home to Tirana . . . Darko Pancev's proposed loan from Inter to Marseille is called off.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA suggests to the French Federation it is time to wrap up the Marseille scandal with conclusive disciplinary action . . . UEFA reject a plea from Atletico Madrid to order a replay of their UEFA Cup defeat by OFI Crete. Atletico had claimed that the shot from the decisive penalty was saved by goalkeeper Diego Diaz.

TURKEY: Two people are reported dead after celebrations over Galatasaray's Champions Cup defeat of Man United.

UNITED STATES: Thomas Dooley, former Kaiserslautern defender, is voted Player of the Year by the USSF.

WALES: Wales, hampered by suspensions and injuries, recall Newcastle striker Malcolm Allen and Derby midfielder Mark Pembridge for the decisive World Cup qualifier against Romania. Squad: Southall, Roberts; Phillips, Bodin, Bowen, Young, Melville, Symons, Coleman, Goss, Speed, Horne, Blackmore, Pembridge, Rush, Giggs, Saunders, Allen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

FRANCE: Cannes transfer former East German international Rainer Ernst to FC Zurich.

ITALY: Fiorentina president Mario Cecchi Gori dies, aged 72.

SWITZERLAND: The Champions League draw, in Geneva, places Barcelona, Monaco, Moscow Spartak and Galatasaray in Group A with Milan, Anderlecht, Werder Bremen and FC Porto in Group B . . . UEFA general secretary Gerhard Aigner says Eric Cantona could be suspended not only from European club competition but from World Cup action following his comments after the match in Istanbul against Galatasaray.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

ACTION: Eintracht Frankfurt beat Borussia Dortmund 2-0 in Germany while Bayern Munich, suffering a hangover from their midweek UEFA Cup exit in Norwich, lose 2-0 to Nurnberg and fall five points adrift of the leaders . . . match of day in France sees Monaco held 1-1 at home by leaders (with points) Paris Saint-Germain . . . Atletico Madrid, amazing victors over Barcelona last week, slump 2-1 at Zaragoza.

FRANCE: Lyon demand that the French Federation suspend Alen Boksic's sale to Lazio because Marseille still owe them £130,000 from the summer transfer to the European champions of defender Pascal Fugier.

SWEDEN: Borussia Monchengladbach's Martin Dahlin is voted Swedish Footballer of the Year.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

ACTION: In England, champions Manchester United recover from their Champions Cup dismissal in Turkey by beating derby rivals Manchester City 3-2, after being 2-0 down at half-time. Eric Cantona, involved in midweek skirmishes with the referee and Turkish police, scores twice . . . Milan win the San Siro derby, beating Inter 2-1; Parma stay joint top thanks to a 2-0 win over Juventus . . . Real Madrid edge up to sixth place in Spain after beating Logrones 2-1 on goals by Fernando Hierro.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona denounces reports that player power may force the dismissal of national team manager Alfio Basile. Meanwhile, his Newell's Old Boys remained rooted to the foot of the league table after crashing 4-1 to River Plate.

GERMANY: Borussia Dortmund say Australia's Ned Zelic will miss the World Cup return against Argentina after tearing knee ligaments in the 2-0 weekend defeat by Eintracht.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid president says general manager Ruben Cano will resign "imminently" as caretaker coach. Uruguayan Oscar Washington Tabarez, from Boca Juniors, is latest tip to take over.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

ITALY: Milan midfielder Zvonimir Boban, who injured a knee in Sunday's derby with Inter, will be out for two months.

ARGENTINA: Local fans queueing for tickets for the World Cup play-off against Australia riot after the AFA halts sales when five youths jump the queue and force their way into the federation's offices.

BELGIUM: National manager Paul Van Himnst has to name a World Cup squad without captain Georges Grun, sweeper Marc Emmers and striker Marc Degryse, all injured. Squad: Preud'homme, De Wilde; Albert, De Wolf, Medved, Smidts, Borkelmans; Boffin, Scifo, Van der Elst, Staelens, Versavel, Van Meir; Nilis, Czerniatynski, Wilmots, Oliveira.

BRAZIL: Sao Paulo's Uruguayan midfielder Gustavo Matosas is kidnapped by three men and held for four hours — before being released minus his watch, money and car.

CHILE: Australian manager Eddie Thomson is pessimistic about the World Cup return against Argentina after captain Paul Wade injures an ankle in training in Santiago. Sweeper Ned Zelic is already ruled out after a weekend ligament injury playing in Germany for Borussia Dortmund. Goalkeeper Mark Bosnich is uncertain yet whether his English club, Aston Villa, will release him for the match.

FRANCE: Marseille, having failed to borrow Darko Pancev from Inter, switch interest to Legia Warsaw's Poland striker Wojciech Kowalczyk.

SWITZERLAND: Captain and veteran defender Andy Egli is selected to make his international comeback in the vital World Cup tie against Estonia on November 17 . . . Turkey are ordered by UEFA to play their forthcoming European under-21 match against Norway behind closed doors as punishment for the incidents when a Polish player was struck by a coin at the under-21 match against Poland in Istanbul on October 26.

ZAMBIA: The ZFA extends for a further year the managerial contract of Scottish-born Ian Porterfield, the former Chelsea boss.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

BELGIUM: Anderlecht defender Michel De Wolf, who retired from the national team in 1991, agrees to one last recall for the World Cup decider against Czechoslovakia.

BRAZIL: Brazil will be without Bebeto and probably Romario for next week's friendly against Germany.

CHILE: Colo Colo coach Mirko Jozic agrees a two-year contract as manager of the Chilean national team.

ENGLAND: Australian officials insist that Aston Villa must release goalkeeper Mark Bosnich for the World Cup play-off return against Argentina. Bosnich had feared a problem over his presence in Buenos Aires because of Villa's concern over an injury.

GERMANY: Nurnberg sack coach Willi Entenmann despite last Saturday's 2-0 victory over Bayern Munich . . . new disaster for Bayern Munich as they lose 2-1 to Dynamo Dresden in a domestic Cup tie, their third successive defeat and third in six days.

ITALY: Milan are allowed to switch their Champions League ➤

TEAM OF THE MONTH:

Werder Bremen . . .

for that astonishing comeback, from 3-0 down at home, to defeat Anderlecht 5-3 in the Champions League.

tie against FC Porto forward from December 8 to December 1 to aid their preparations for the World Club Cup Final against Sao Paulo in Tokyo on December 12. Car crash survivor Gian Luigi Lentini is named as a substitute for the midweek Italian cup-tie against Piacenza with every prospect of playing at some stage in the game, according to coach Fabio Capello.

SAUDI ARABIA: The federation asks Tele Santana, manager of Brazil's South American and World Club champions Sao Paulo to take over their World Cup campaign.

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa will bid to host the 2006 World Cup finals, says SAFA secretary Solomon Morewa.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter warns of a crackdown on players feigning injury and encroaching at free kicks. He also suggests the International Board should be extended to divest the four British associations of their control of the balance of voting power on proposed law changes.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

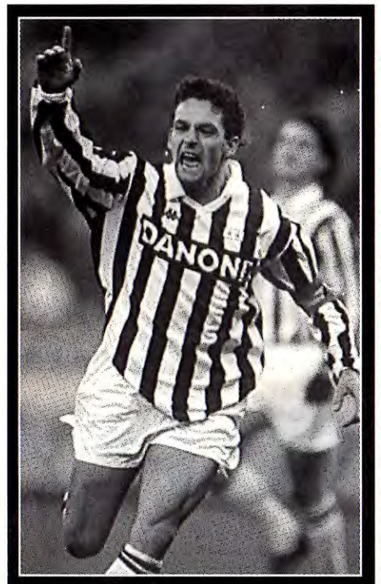
ACTION: Norway lose their first match in the World Cup qualifiers by 2-1 in Turkey but too late to upset their plans for the finals . . . Israel, fresh from victory in Paris, go down 3-1 at home to Finland.

EGYPT: Al-Ahli boss Alan Harris appeals for the Egyptian Federation to crackdown on spectator violence after his players are bombarded with stones and other missiles and prevented from leaving the pitch at Ismailia.

FRANCE: Marseille capitalise on the Italian transfer "window" to raise badly-needed funds, selling Portuguese forward Paulo Futre to Reggiana and French defender Marcel Desailly to Milan.

ITALY: Bottom club Lecce sack coach Nedo Sonetti . . . Parma buy Argentinian World Cup defender Nestor Sensini from Udinese to substitute for long-term injury victim George Grun . . . Udinese buy Polish defender Dariusz Adamczuk from Dundee . . . Gianluigi Lentini makes his Milan comeback as a substitute in a 1-1 Cup draw with Piacenza.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid appoint "unknown" Emilio Cruz, a former coach of Rayo, as new team boss in succession to caretaker Ramon Heredia.



PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Roberto Baggio . . .

for picking up every major award in sight.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

SPAIN: Valencia crash 3-0 at home to Real Madrid.

SWITZERLAND: Eric Cantona is banned for four European club matches for his misbehaviour at the end of Manchester United's Champions Cup tie against Galatasaray in Istanbul. But fears that he would be suspended from France's decisive World Cup qualifier against Bulgaria prove unfounded.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

GERMANY: Champions Werder Bremen lose surprisingly by 1-0 at home to struggling Dresden.

HOLLAND: Dick Advocaat calls up Arthur Numan of PSV to replace suspended Frank Rijkaard against Poland.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

ENGLAND: A slow-healing hip injury finally rules Mark Bosnich out of Australia's World Cup return against Argentina and brings to an end the war of words between Aston Villa manager Ron Atkinson and Australia boss Eddie Thomson.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

ACTION: The United States beat the Cayman Islands 8-1 in Mission Viejo. Kinnear, Chung and Moore each score twice . . . the imminent World Cup programme means there is virtually no major domestic soccer competition across Europe.

ENGLAND: Peter Schmeichel is reported to be seeking a better deal than the £6,000-a-week contract on offer from Manchester United.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

FRANCE: Marseille defender Basile Boli, just recalled to the French World Cup squad after knee trouble, withdraws from the Paris showdown with Bulgaria after pulling a thigh muscle in training.

SPAIN: Valencia, deposed as league leaders, thrashed in the UEFA Cup by Karlsruhe and beaten at home by Real Madrid, dismiss Dutch coach Guus Hiddink. Francisco Real, director of Valencia's soccer school, is appointed caretaker. Hiddink says: I feel shattered. I was sure I was staying.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

ACTION: In the European Under-21s, Poland beat Holland 2-0 and Greece draw 2-2 with Russia.

CHILE: Bolivia's World Cup star Marco Etcheverry is ruled out for four months after tearing knee ligaments in a collision with an opponent during the Santiago derby between his own club, Colo Colo, and Universidad Catolica.

JAPAN: The J.League, predictably, decides to increase its size from 12 to 14 teams next year by ratifying the promotion of Jubilo Iwata of Shizuoka (midway between Tokyo and Osaka) and Bellmare Hiratsuka of Kanagawa (west of Tokyo). But it rejects the promotion application of Kashiwa Reysol. Kashiwa, backed by electronics giant Hitachi and starring Brazilian veteran Careca, finished only fifth.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid appeal to UEFA to revoke or reduce a five-match European club ban on defender Jose Caminero, who had been sent off in a UEFA Cup second round tie against OFI Crete.

SWITZERLAND: Moroccan veteran Aziz Bouderbala joined Second Division St Gallen until the end of the season. Bouderbala, who had played previously with Sion, Racing Paris and Lyon, is out of contract from Portugal's Estoril.

UNITED STATES: US '94 spokesmen confirm that the finals draw procedure will be reversed in that the venues for the six groups will be allocated at the end of the draw instead of before it. This is to ensure that nations go to cities which can offer ethnic support.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

ACTION: A shatteringly dramatic night ends the 1994 World Cup qualifying campaign with Italy and Switzerland qualifying at Portugal's expense (Europe group one), Holland comfortably holding off an England team (above) who concede a nine-second goal to San Marino (group two), Spain's victory over Denmark pulling the Irish Republic through behind them (group three), Romania riding Wales' penalty miss to accompany Belgium (group four) and France falling to another last-minute defeat against Bulgaria this time, which costs them a place in the finals. In the inter-continental play-off, Argentina defeat spirited Australia 1-0 (2-1 on aggregate) . . . Germany beat a weakened Brazil 2-1 in Cologne in a match which sees Lothar Matthaus earn a record 104th cap . . . Flamengo and Sao Paulo draw 2-2 in Rio's Maracana in the first leg of the South American Supercup Final.

ENGLAND: Sheffield Wednesday's Sweden fullback Roland Nilsson says he intends going home to play for Helsingborg.

ITALY: A warrant is issued in Milan for the arrest of Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti over his business involvement in the Edimont fraud scandal.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

FRANCE: Marseille sign Brazilian striker Anderson Da Silva from Servette of Geneva.

ITALY: Italy beat Portugal again, this time by 2-1, to qualify for the quarter-finals of the European Under-21 championship . . . national coach Arrigo Sacchi appeals to clubs not to overwork his players in the run-up to the World Cup finals.

UNITED STATES: World Cup organising officials say the six top seeds at the draw in Las Vegas on December 19 will be Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Italy, the US and Belgium . . . former England forward Gary Lineker undergoes surgery in Chicago to cure a long-standing toe injury.

WALES: Four men are arrested in Cardiff after the death of a fan in the National Stadium on Wednesday when struck by a rocket flare.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

ARGENTINA: AFA president Julio Grondona says under-pressure Alfio Basile will remain as manager for the World Cup finals . . . police report that four people were seriously injured by stray bullets fired during celebrations after Wednesday's World Cup qualifying victory over Australia.

FRANCE: France manager Gerard Houllier will see out his contract until next year despite the World Cup qualifying failure, says FFF president Jean Fournet-Fayard. But Atalanta midfielder Franck Sauzee says he intends to retire from the national team.

GERMANY: League leaders Eintracht Frankfurt lose, remarkably, by 3-0 at home to Koln.

MOROCCO: The Sports Ministry awards the players who secured World Cup qualification a bonus of £6,000 a man.

PORTUGAL: National coach Carlos Queiros refuses to comment on reports that he has been offered the job of managing Saudi Arabia at the World Cyp finals.

RUSSIA: National boss Pavel Sadyrin says Gabon's Jean Diramba, who controlled the 1-0 defeat by Greece on Wednesday, was "the most incompetent I've seen for a long time."

SENEGAL: Former national captain Jules Bocande is appointed as national coach for the forthcoming African Nations Cup finals in Tunisia. Bocande, captain at the 1992 Nations Cup, will share duties with another former international, Boubacar Sarr.

TURKEY: Genclerbirligi sign Kaizer Chiefs midfielder Donald Khuse, who has played in all South Africa's 15 internationals since the nation's return from footballing isolation.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

ACTION: In Spain, Barcelona crash 1-0 at home to promoted strugglers Lleida.

BELGIUM: Anderlecht striker Marc Degryse, out since mid-September with a muscle tear, admits he will not be fit in time for Wednesday's Champions league tie against Milan.

ARGENTINA: Cesar Menotti agrees to return, for the second time, as coach to Boca Juniors in succession to Jorge Habegger, who had lasted only six months.

FRANCE: League president Noel Le Graet says a new owner has been found to buy out Bernard Tapie's controlling interest in Marseille (who lose 3-0 to Auxerre).

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

ACTION: Africa Sports of Ivory Coast and Egypt's Al-Ahly draw 1-1 in the first leg of the African Cup-winners Cup final in Abidjan . . . Milan keep up with Parma thanks to a 2-1 win over Napoli, owed to a last-minute goal from Albertini . . . in Spain Real Madrid beat Celta 2-1 and join five other clubs in a six-way tie at the top of the table.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

ITALY: Reggiana's new signing, Paulo Futre, is ruled out for three months after damaging knee ligaments in his goal-scoring debut the previous day in a 2-0 win over Cremonese.

SAUDI ARABIA: Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker is appointed as national manager of Saudi Arabia for the World Cup finals. Beenhakker, who coached Ajax Amsterdam, Real Madrid and Holland at the 1990 World Cup finals, had been resting since leaving Switzerland's Grasshopper Zurich at the end of last season.

SPAIN: Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff fines his entire team after Saturday's 1-0 defeat by Lleida, their first home upset in the league in two years. Cruyff says: 'Their attitude was a disaster. Players cannot be allowed out with this attitude. All this means some will not be here at the end of the season.

TURKEY: Sepp Piontek, former Denmark manager, returns to Denmark after parting company with Turkish club Bursaspor.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

BRAZIL: Palmeiras reinstate star forward Edmundo after suspending him as punishment for an incident in Sunday's game against Sao Paulo in which Edmundo scuffled with team-mate Antonio Carlos.

ENGLAND: Six days after England's 7-1 win over San Marino, Graham Taylor resigned as manager.

ITALY: Milan doctor Rodolfo Tavana says latest checks on Marco Van Basten's damaged right ankle suggest he may be out for most of the rest of the season . . . Milan's former Yugoslav forward Dejan Savicevic refuses to travel with the squad to Brussels for the Champions League tie against Anderlecht after coach Fabio Capello refuses to guarantee him a place in the starting line-up.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil describes his team as "incompetent, mediocre and inept," after the weekend's 1-1 draw with Valladolid.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA decide to supply World Cup finals teams with kit-containers, first-aid bags, cooler bags and plastic bottles to protect the World Cup's own official sponsors from so-called "ambush advertising" . . . UEFA's appeals board cuts a five-year international ban on Bulgarian club Botev Plovdiv's Georgi Donkov to two years. He was originally banned for spitting at a linesman when Botev played Greek club Olympiakos Piraeus in a UEFA Cup tie on September 29.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

ACTION: The Champions League opens with two goalless draws and two victories — for Monaco by 4-1 against Moscow Spartak and FC Porto by 3-2 against Werder Bremen . . . a good night for Italy in the UEFA with victories for both Juventus (3-0 v Tenerife) and Internazionale (1-0 away to Norwich).

ITALY: Milan and Holland striker Marco Van Basten says he fears his career may be prematurely ended by his ankle problem. Van Basten says: "Everything is at risk, not just my participation at next summer's World Cup."

PORTUGAL: The federation starts an inquiry into remarks by national coach Carlos Queiros, after the World Cup defeat by Portugal, that major problems within the federation needed to be resolved . . . Famalicao sacked trainer Jose Soares. He is the second coach dismissed so far this season after Belenenses' dismissal of Abel Braga in October.

TURKEY: The government allocates champions Galatasaray a grant of £500,000 for "services to the nation's foreign relations" through their progress in the Champions Cup.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

ACTION: Mechelen go down 3-1 at home to Cagliari in a delayed UEFA Cup tie.

FRANCE: Gerard Houllier (right) resigns as France manager in the wake of the World Cup failure against Bulgaria. Houllier says: "I wanted to resign immediately but the people in charge asked me to stay."

ROMANIA: The federation protests to FIFA over their players' treatment by the police in Wales as they prepared to fly home after the World Cup qualifier. A police spokesman says the players had been photographed to "avoid any ambiguity at a later stage in so much as they were potential witnesses to the death of a fan."

TURKEY: Galatasaray defender Falko Gotz may have to undergo surgery after suffering a groin injury in the goalless Champions League draw against Barcelona.

SOUTH AFRICA: Durban club Chatsworth Rangers are expelled from Saturday's Super Bowl final against Kaizer Chiefs for fielding Liberian Anthony Tokpah under a false name in their semi-final win over Witbank Aces. Tokpah's presence meant Rangers exceeding the foreign players limit. Tokpah is arrested as an illegal immigrant along with two other Liberian internationals, Friday Roberts and Alexander Theo, who have been playing under false names at another first division club, Bloemfontein Celtic.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

ENGLAND: Former England defender Terry Butcher is dismissed as manager by First Division Sunderland . . . Aston Villa are fined £20,000 by the FA for a breach of rules (regarding the activities of agents) over the signing of Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich. Villa are also ordered to pay the £15,000 costs of the hearing.

GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt's Ghanaian striker Anthony Yeboah, out for two months with a knee injury, is told he must delay his comeback after aggravating the injury in training.

PERU: Ricardo Gonzales, of top division Melgar of Arequipa, is stabbed to death on returning home in the early hours after a party.

SWITZERLAND: Young Boys Bern admit to having made a profit of a mere £50 after only 1,279 fans turned out to see the 3-1 win over Luzern.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

ACTION: Stella Abidjan of Ivory Coast beat favourites Simba of Tanzania 2-0 in Dar es Salaam in the second leg of the African Confederation Cup Final. Stella win 2-0 on aggregate . . . Paris SG extend their lead in France to four points, beating Saint-Etienne 1-0 while second-placed Bordeaux lose 1-0 at Lens . . . German leaders Eintracht Frankfurt 3-0, Frankfurt's third successive defeat.

global TRANSFERS

(Loan moves in italics)

Ray **ATTEVELD**	M	Bristol City	Waregem (Bel)
Jaroslav **BAKO**	G	Lech Poznan	Hapoel Tel Aviv
Dragoljub **BRNOVIC**	M	*Out of contract*	Metz
Carlo **CORRAZIN**	F	Canada	Cambridge United
Rainer **ERNST**	D	Cannes	FC Zurich
John **HANSEN**	D	Ajax	Odense BK
Jesper **JANSSON**	D	Oster Vaxjo	AIK Stockholm
Ulrik **JANSSON**	M	Oster Vaxjo	Helsingborg
Jari **KINNUNEN**	D	Kuusysi Lahti	Haka
*Grzegorz **LEWANDOWSKI***	*M*	*Wisla Krakow*	*Logrones*
Ismo **LIUS**	F	Kuusysi Lahti	HJK Helsinki
Lubomir **LUHOVY**	F	Inter Bratislava	Urawa Red Diamonds (Jap)
Damian **LUKASIK**	D	Lech Poznan	Hapoel Tel Aviv
Sean **McCARTHY**	F	Bradford City	Oldham Athletic
Chidi **NWANU**	D	Beveren	Anderlecht
David **ROCASTLE**	M	Leeds United	Manchester City
Neil **TOLSON**	F	Oldham Athletic	Bradford City
*Bogdan **STELEA***	*G*	*RCD Mallorca*	*Standard Liege*
David **WHITE**	F	Manchester City	Leeds United
Jan **WOUTERS**	M	Bayern Munich	PSV Eindhoven

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

ACTION: Asante Kotoko of Ghana draw 0-0 with Zamalek of Egypt in the first leg of the African Champions Cup final . . . Marseille recover some pride in a 3-0 win away to Martigues with a goal from new Brazilian Anderson Da Silva . . . Italy's match of the season between joint leaders Parma and Milan ends in a disappointing goalless draw . . . Real Madrid's revival in Spain is halted by a 2-1 defeat at Gijon.

BRAZIL: National manager Carlos Alberto Parreira says he wants to bring his home-based players to Europe for World Cup preparation in the spring.

ENGLAND: Graham Taylor says had he known how his spell as England boss turned out he would not have taken the job.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

ARGENTINA: National coach Alfio Basile, denied his Europe-based players, includes five newcomers in his 18-man squad for the friendly against Cameroon on December 8 — River Plate forward Ariel Ortega and midfielder Hernan Diaz, San Lorenzo striker Claudio Biaggio and midfielder Roberto Monserrat and Racing defender Jorge Reinoso.

FRANCE: Jean Fournet-Fayard resigns as president of the federation. Senior vice-president Jacques Georges steps up as interim president until February. He appoints league president Noel Le Graet to appoint a new national manager in succession to Gerard Houllier. Fournet-Fayard's nine-year reign included the Bordeaux cash scandal, the Bastia stadium disaster, the Marseille match-fix scandal and, finally, the recent World Cup qualifying disaster.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA names a shortlist of 30 referees and 25 linesmen to be tested for selection for the World Cup finals. Fitness and technical tests will be held in Dallas in March after which 22 referees and 22 linesmen will be named for the finals.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

ALBANIA: Defender Eugen Xhakoni of league leaders Teuta Durres is reported to have needed three stitches in a head wound after being struck by a stone during the 0-0 draw against Vllaznia Shkodra.

BELGIUM: Cercle Bruges striker Josip Weber learns that his naturalisation application will go before the relevant parliamentary commission in six weeks' time. Weber, a Croat, scored four goals for Cercle against Lierse at the weekend to take his total in Belgium to 119 in five and a half seasons.

ENGLAND: Manchester City striker Niall Quinn is ruled out for the rest of the season by a knee ligament injury . . . former England full-back Jimmy Armfield, now a radio soccer analyst, is appointed by the FA to advise its committee seeking to appoint a new England manager.

FRANCE: Denmark forward Torben Frank is released on bail by police after being charged with attempted fraud for allegedly concealing a knee injury from Lyon who have formally complained that Frank and his two former clubs in Denmark, Lyngby and Brondby, deliberately failed to inform them that he had a cracked right knee.

GREECE: The federation says weekend attendances were the lowest on record when only a total of 16,541 fans turned out to watch nine matches. The previous lowest figure was 20,362 in December 1976. The federation blamed bad weather, live TV and a shift of interest to other sports.

ITALY: Barilla, the food and pasta group which has been Roma's sponsor for the last 13 years, announces it will end the agreement at the end of the season.

PORTUGAL: Sporting win 2-0 at Estoril to regain a share of the league leadership alongside Benfica.

SWITZERLAND: Grasshopper's Brazilian striker Giovane Elber, who suffered a serious eye injury a month ago, is cleared to resume training by club doctor Roger Berbig.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

ACTION: Milan beat Porto 3-0 in the Champions League.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona says he may not be fit enough to play in the World Cup finals.

BELGIUM: Standard Liege sign Romania goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea on trial from Mallorca.

FRANCE: Veteran striker Rudi Voller says he wants to return to Germany when his two-year contract with Marseille expires at the season's end . . . former national boss Michel Hidalgo volunteers to help reconstruct French football.

GERMANY: Christoph Daum says he will quit as Stuttgart coach at the mid-winter break . . . Bernd Schuster is sent off as holders Bayer Leverkusen are knocked out of the Cup, beaten on penalties by Dynamo Dresden after a 1-1 draw. In another quarter-final, Tennis Borussia Berlin, bottom of the Second Division, beat top-flight Freiburg 1-0.

ITALY: Marco Van Basten is resigned to missing the World Cup after a consultant in Barcelona tells him yet another ankle operation may be necessary . . . Inter's Wim Jonk is ruled out for a month after a knee operation . . . Gullit misses a penalty but Sampdoria still beat Roma 2-1 in an Italian Cup third round, first leg tie.

SWITZERLAND: The Federation backs down on trying to insist that financial consultants should not be involved on behalf of the national team squad in negotiation over World Cup bonuses.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

SWITZERLAND: UEFA unveils its expanding Champions League, to start next season with eight teams seeded direct to four groups of four teams playing their mini-leagues through September, October, November and December. The lower layer of national champions will play off for the other eight spots while the third level, the minnows, will be relegated into a rebuilt, mammoth, 100-club UEFA Cup . . . UEFA also announces the appointment of former Scotland national coach Andy Roxburgh as technical supremo.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

ENGLAND: Sweden defender Roland Nilsson says he will retire at the end of this month after Sheffield Wednesday refuse to release him from his contract to return to play in Sweden.

ROMANIA: Steaua Bucharest sack striker Ion Vladoiu after he broke the nose of Sportul Studentesc defender Nicolae Vochin at the weekend. Steaua coach Emerich Jenei says: "We don't need a brutal player in our team, however good he may be."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

ACTION: Bayer Leverkusen go top in Germany after Eintracht Frankfurt lose yet again, this time by 1-0 to Werder Bremen . . . Barcelona are held 2-2 at home in Spain by Logrones.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

RUSSIA: Russia's top league clubs are spared 17,000 miles flying next season after the relegation of Siberian clubs Luch Vladivostok and Okean Nakhodka.

SPAIN: Hugo Sanchez becomes the No. 2 all-time scorer in Spain after his goal against Zaragoza for Rayo Vallecano in a 4-1 defeat lifts his total to 228, one more than Alfredo Di Stefano (ex-Real Madrid) but still 23 fewer than Telmo Zarra (ex-Bilbao).

UKRAINE: The top two league teams, Kiev Dynamo and Shakhtyor Donetsk, are knocked out of the Cup. Dynamo lose 1-0 away (and 2-1 on aggregate) to fourth-placed Veres Rivne while Shakhtyor are held 1-1 at home by Kremin Kreminchuk (and lose 2-1 on aggregate).

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

RUSSIA: Russia boss Pavel Sadyrin accuses Anatoli Bishovets, the last CIS manager, of masterminding a letter signed by 14 national team players and demanding that Sadyrin step down. Sadyrin says: "Most of the players thought the letter contained mainly financial demands."

SWITZERLAND: FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter says that the World Cup organising committee, not the participating teams, will decide whether to switch to three points for a win at next year's finals in the US. Previously, FIFA had said a decision would rest with the 24 finalists.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

COLOMBIA: Doctors report a deterioration in the condition of goalkeeper Rene Higuita, who is staging a hunger strike in protest at his time spent in jail on remand.

FRANCE: Parliament votes overwhelmingly to lift immunity from prosecution from Marseille president Bernard Tapie in respect of charges that he used money from one of his companies to buy players for the club.

PORTUGAL: Striker Marlon Brandao says he will quit Boavista at the season's end unless he is awarded a much-improved contract.

OBITUARY

DANNY BLANCHFLOWER, outstanding captain and right-half of Tottenham and Northern Ireland in the late 1950s and early 1960s, dies aged 67. Blanchflower began with Glentoran and moved up the English ladder with Barnsley and Aston Villa before joining Spurs in 1954 for a then club record £30,000. His medals included the 1961 League-and-Cup double, another FA Cup and the Cup-winners Cup when Spurs became the first British side to win a European trophy in 1963. He later managed Chelsea and Northern Ireland.
(See pages 64-65 for Brian Glanville's personal view)

JUAN SCURSONI, Argentina's oldest international, died just short of his 95th birthday in Buenos Aires. Scursoni made his international debut in 1923.

ROY VERNON, Wales inside left of the 1950s and early 1960s, died aged 56. Vernon, born at Ffynnongroyw on the Dee, joined Blackburn Rovers after leaving school, scoring 49 goals in 131 games before being sold to Everton in February, 1960. Vernon top-scored with 24 goals in Everton's 1963 League title-winning side. In 1965 he moved to Stoke before ending his career with a brief spell at Halifax. Vernon was capped 32 times by Wales between 1957 and 1968 scoring eight goals.

TV

SKY SPORTS

REGULAR PROGRAMMES — ANDY GRAY'S BOOT ROOM: Thursday 6, 13, 27 at 21.00. Friday 7, 14 at 9.30, Friday 7, 14, 28 at 17.00.
SOCCER NEWS: Monday 3, 8, 31 at 18.00. Monday 3, 10, 24 at 22.15. Tuesday 4, 11, 18 25 at 07.00, 08.15, 18.00, 22.00. Wednesday 5, 12, 19, 26 at 07.00, 08.15 18.00, 22.00. Thursday 6, 13, 20, 27 at 07.00, 08.15, 18.00, 22.00. Friday 7, 14, 21, 28 at 07.00, 08.15.
SKY SOCCER WEEKEND: Friday 7, 14, 21, 28 at 18.00. Saturday 1, 8, 15, 29 at 09.30.
FORD SUPER SUNDAY: Sunday 16, 23 at 14.00, 16.00.
FORD MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL: LIVE — Monday 3, 10 at 19.00, 24.00. Monday 24 at 19.00.
GOALS ON SUNDAY: Sunday 1, 16, 23 at 12.00.
THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW: Tuesday 18, 25 at 21.00.

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY
13.30.....THE TOP 100 GOALS OF 1993

TUESDAY 4 JANUARY
12.30.....FA PREMIERSHIP — Leeds v Aston Villa
18.15.....NETBUSTERS
18.30.....GOAL — THE FOOTBALL QUIZ
19.00.....FORD MONDAY NIGHT EXTRA — LIVE — Liverpool v Manchester Utd
24.15.....FORD MONDAY NIGHT — Liverpool v Manchester Utd

WEDNESDAY 5 JANUARY
11.30.....THE TOP 100 GOALS OF 1993
24.15.....THE TOP 100 GOALS OF 1993

THURSDAY 6 JANUARY
10.15.....NETBUSTERS
01.15.....NETBUSTERS

FRIDAY 7 JANUARY
24.30.....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SUNDAY 9 JANUARY
17.30.....FA CUP SPECIAL
24.00.....FA CUP SPECIAL

MONDAY 10 JANUARY
12.30.....FA CUP SPECIAL
22.30.....GOAL — THE FOOTBALL QUIZ

TUESDAY 11 JANUARY
12.30.....FA CUP — 3RD ROUND
17.30.....GOAL — THE FOOTBALL QUIZ
18.15.....NETBUSTERS
20.30.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW ON THE ROAD
22.15.....THE BOSS
23.45.....THE FOOTBALLLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY
08.30.....THE BOSS
12.30.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
14.00.....THE BOSS
17.30.....FUTBOL MONDIAL
22.15.....FUTBOL MONDIAL

THURSDAY 13 JANUARY
10.15.....NETBUSTERS
10.30.....FUTBOL MONDIAL
16.30.....FUTBOL MONDIAL
22.15.....FRENCH FOOTBALL LEAGUE
24.45.....NETBUSTERS

FRIDAY 14 JANUARY
13.30.....FRENCH FOOTBALL LEAGUE
23.30.....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SUNDAY 16 JANUARY
13.30.....THE BOSS
18.00.....FORD SUPER SUNDAY — TALKBACK

MONDAY 17 JANUARY
22.00.....SOCCER NEWS

TUESDAY 18 JANUARY
18.15.....NETBUSTERS
20.30.....THE BOSS
21.00.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY
19.00.....FA CUP — LIVE — 3RD ROUND REPLAY

THURSDAY 20 JANUARY
21.00.....FRENCH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FRIDAY 21 JANUARY
17.00.....FRENCH FOOTBALL LEAGUE
21.00.....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SATURDAY 22 JANUARY
07.30.....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SUNDAY 23 JANUARY
13.30.....THE BOSS
24.00.....FORD SUPER SUNDAY

MONDAY 24 JANUARY
22.15.....SOCCER NEWS
01.00.....FORD MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

TUESDAY 25 JANUARY
21.00.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY
17.30.....FUTBOL MONDIAL

THURSDAY 27 JANUARY
13.00.....NETBUSTERS
16.00.....THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
18.15.....NETBUSTERS

FRIDAY 28 JANUARY
14.30.....FUTBOL MONDIAL
23.00.....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SATURDAY 29 JANUARY
08.00.....FUTBOL MONDIAL
08.30.....ANDY GRAY'S BOOT ROOM

SUNDAY 30 JANUARY
10.30.....FA CUP SPECIAL
12.00.....FA CUP FOOTBALL — LIVE
23.00.....FA CUP SPECIAL

MONDAY 31 JANUARY
12.00.....FA CUP SPECIAL

EUROSPORT

REGULAR PROGRAMMES — Eurogoals: Monday 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 22.00.

TUESDAY 4 JANUARY
11.00.....EUROGOALS MAGAZINE
17.30.....EUROGOALS MAGAZINE

WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY
11.00.....EUROGOALS MAGAZINE

TUESDAY 18 JANUARY
17.00.....EUROGOALS MAGAZINE

WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY
22.30....."ROAD TO WORLD CUP" — TUNISIA v HOLLAND

THURSDAY 20 JANUARY
21.30....."ROAD TO WORLD CUP" — TUNISIA v HOLLAND

SATURDAY 22 JANUARY
13.00.....1966 EUROPEAN NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW FROM OLD TRAFFORD.

WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY
11.00.....EUROGOALS MAGAZINE

WORLDWIDE QUIZ

PAUL JACKSON from Loughborough is this month's winner, with an all-correct entry, and Mike Collett's *Guinness Record of the FA Cup* is on its way.
To win this month's mystery prize, simply answer the questions below and send your answers — on a postcard — to the usual address by February 1.

QUESTIONS

1. Which Norwich player scored in both legs of their UEFA Cup tie against Bayern Munich?
2. Which two countries opposed each other last year in a World Cup game played in Lyons?
3. Maccabi Haifa lost on penalties in this season's Cup-winners Cup. Who beat them?
4. Which current Benfica and Portugal player is the son of a man who also played for that club and that country?
5. Wasiu Ipaye has been top scorer in an African country for three successive seasons. Which one?
6. Who was named Coach of the Year for 1993 in the United States?
7. Name the South American club who have had 52 coaches since 1966, when they last won the championship.
8. Which Spanish club could field a team of players with only 53 letters in total — Manolo, Toni, Mata, Gomez, Paqui, Tono, Chano, Felipe, Pier, Pizzi, Conte?
9. Who were the first father-and-son pair to play in full internationals for England?
10. Internazionale were held to a 3-3 draw in this season's UEFA Cup. By which club?

JANUARY ANSWERS

1 Everton, at Liverpool and Wimbledon. 2 Mark Hateley, with Portsmouth, Milan, Monaco and Rangers. 3 Romario of Brazil. 4 Switzerland. 5 Andy Roxburgh. 6 Macao. 7 Viollet, Venables and Viljoen. 8 Vaclav Danek of FC Tirol in Austria. 9 Swindon. 10 The American team who won the Women's World Cup.

lotto X WORD

LAST MONTH'S WINNER: Yokhin Mikhael of Nazareth-Illit, Israel.

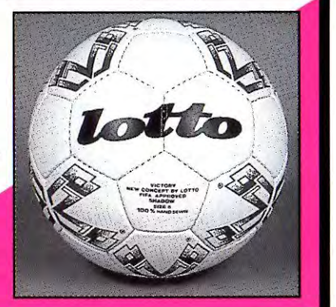
LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION
Across: 7. Obiku, 8. Mwila, 9. Taument, 10. Rai, 11. Raba, 13. Zoff, 17. Bak, 18. Osasuna, 20. Yuran, 21. Bruce.
Down: 1. Mostar, 2. Dinu, 3. Rufer, 4. Smith, 5. Hierro, 6. Cali, 12. Bakero, 14. Fraser, 15. Worns, 16. Balbo, 17. Buyo, 19. Ugur.

Compiled by Christine Ansell

WIN

To win a Lotto Football, fill in this month's crossword and send it, by Jan 1, to:

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD **(FEB), 25th floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.**

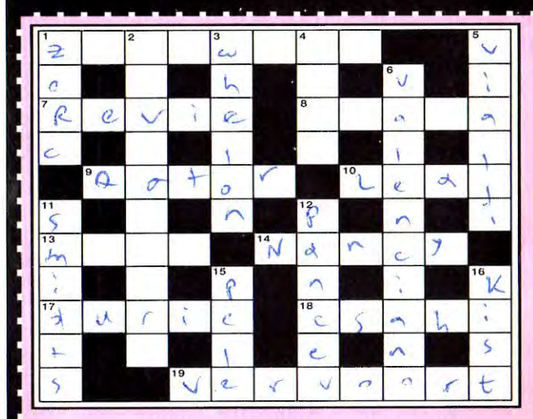


ACROSS

1.....Polish club represented in the 1993-94 Cup-winners Cup (8)
7.....England manager, 1974-77 (5)
8.....Last year's Zambian League champions, formerly the Red Devils (5)
9.....1992 Gulf Cup winners (5)
10....Sporting and Portugal defender formerly with Academico Viseu (4)
13....Finland's 1993-94 Cup-winners Cup competitors (4)
14....France's Marcel-Picot stadium club relegated in '92 (5)
17....Ex-Hibs and Scotland forward in England with Chelsea and Spurs (5)
18....Jozsef, 27-year-old Honved and Hungary defender (5)
19....Belgian left-back/midfielder prominent with Anderlecht and Bordeaux (8)

DOWN

1.....Borussia Dortmund midfielder — a 1993 UEFA Cup final substitute (4)
2.....Newly-promoted, Pertti Lundell-coached Finnish club (1.1.1.7.)
3.....Liverpool's Irish veteran who began at Home Farm (6)
4.....Young goalkeeper of Valletta and Malta (4)
5.....Juve's £12.5m recruit from Sampdoria (6)
6.....Colombian striker back home from Atalanta (10)
11....Stalwart Antwerp left-back capped by Belgium (6)
12....Red Star's '91 Golden Boot winner whisked off to Inter (6)
15....Edson Arantes do Nascimento (4)
16....AZ 67 Alkmaar's Golden Boot winner of 1979 (4)



FEBRUARY

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Rising star . . . midfielder Andy Turner.

Born in the USA

CELTIC AND TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR ARE FLYING THE FLAG FOR BRITAIN AND *WORLD SOCCER* IN THE 1994 DALLAS CUP . . . A BREEDING GROUND FOR TOMORROW'S STARS.

Big test for Spurs youngsters

Likely Dallas squad: Andy Quy *(goalkeeper)*, Ijah Anderson, Danny Foot, Leon Townley, Glynn Hurst, Garry Brady, Steve Carr, Jamie Clapham, Billy Hudson, Neil Le Bihan, Junior Haynes, Gareth Knott, Robert Simpson, Steve Slade.

YOUTH TEAM HONOURS
FA Youth Cup: 1970, 1974, 1990.
SE Counties Senior League: 1970, 1971, 1973, 1979, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993.
SE Counties Senior League Cup: 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993.
Southern Junior Floodlit Cup: 1965, 1970, 1990, 1992.
International youth tournaments: 1959 Rotterdam, 1960 Berrenrath, 1965 The Hague, 1966 Bremen, 1971 Rotterdam, 1972 Rotterdam, 1974 Rotterdam, 1975 Geneva, 1976 Brussels, 1987 Dusseldorf, 1991 Bellinzona.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR'S youth team are England's representatives in this year's American Airlines Dallas Cup XV Tournament which is being held from March 26 to April 3.

Spurs have previously turned down youth tournaments in the US, but the strength of opposition, with clubs such as Milan, River Plate and Celtic taking part, persuaded them to participate in this year's Under-19 World Youth Club Championship Group.

Keith Waldon, Tottenham's youth coach, explained: "As a world famous club, we get dozens of invitations every year to take part in international youth tournaments, but limit them strictly to two or three in Europe.

"But with teams of this stature taking part, we felt that it would be a great opportunity for our boys to test themselves against some of the very best young talent in the world.

"Our record over the past 10 years has been, in my opinion, the best by far in England, not only in terms of winning youth trophies but also in producing players for the first team, which is our main objective.

"Barring the odd exception, we have beaten the best youth teams at home, so it is useful to play against the different styles of foreign opponents. Most English sides still tend to play the direct style at a furious pace, whereas we try to play proper passing football."

Waldon knows that one of his tasks is to fly the flag for English football.

"Wherever we go, people are surprised that we don't play what they consider the traditional English way — all effort and smashing long balls forward.

"They are surprised to see an English side get the ball down, pass it around and beat them at their own game like we do.

"Our style has helped us win almost every European tournament we have entered, but we haven't yet encountered Milan, for example, who must be one of the strongest clubs in the world. This will be the ultimate test for us."

Tottenham's task will not be helped by the fact that most of their players will be a year younger than their opponents.

"The age limit in the US is Under-19, but we will probably send our Under-18s, which is the age limit for domestic competition," says Waldon.

Waldon stresses that winning is not as important as taking part.

"Results at youth level do not matter in the slightest," he says. "I would like to see no leagues in youth football, only friendlies and cup competitions.

"It is purely a matter of giving more experience to young players so that they are better prepared for first-team football. Obviously it is nice to win the competitions we enter, but only if we do it playing the right way."

Although Spurs are considered one of the big spenders of British football, their youth system has produced great players such as Glenn Hoddle, Graeme Souness and Steve Perryman, and more recently Nick Barmby is one of several outstanding youngsters at the club.

Seven of last year's youth team have already played in the first team. Winger Andy Turner was the youngest player to appear in the Premier League at 17, although his record was beaten this year by full-back Steve Carr, a fellow Republic of Ireland Under-21 who made his league debut against Ipswich last October, just days after signing as a professional.

Other players to watch include striker Robert Simpson, whose prolific form this season earned a call-up in England's youth side when he scored on his debut against France, and Scottish schoolboy cap Garry Brady.

Boys are the key for the Bhoys

CELTIC, once noted as British football's prime soccer academy, are hoping the Dallas Cup will provide a platform for stars of the future to emerge.

The Scottish side, known as the Bhoys, built their immense European reputation on home-grown talent — almost all of the side which won the Champions Cup in 1967 against Internazionale were reared at Parkhead — and produced such stars as Jimmy Johnstone, Kenny Dalglish, Danny McGrain, Charlie Nicholas and Paul McStay.

But that flow of talent has dried up in recent years and Tony Taylor, the club's youth chief, believes that giving his current crop of kids the chance to play in the competitive arena of the Dallas Cup can only improve their football education.

"It's a good opportunity for Celtic," says Taylor, "because playing abroad always gives you a better standard of competition than you would get at home.

"I'm familiar with the competition from my time with the Canadian FA where I was a youth coach and we always sent teams to Dallas because we found the standard to be ideal. Some of the best young kids in the world are there."

Taylor spent three years as a player at Celtic in the mid-1960s when the club had its best-ever development scheme under the legendary Jock Stein, before moving on to play for Morton, Crystal Palace, Bristol City, Portsmouth and then Toronto Blizzard.

His return to his home city of Glasgow after an exile of 23 years is part of the current shake-up at Celtic which includes former Scotland star Lou Macari, who made his name with the club before moving to Manchester United, trying to restore the club's fortunes at the top level.

It's Taylor's job to provide manager Macari with the raw materials to work on in a few years' time.

Unfortunately he's aware the standards have declined since his own time as a youngster at Parkhead and that is something he wants to change.

"When I was a lad every youngster in Scotland wanted to sign for Celtic," he said. "It was an achievement to be asked but gradually the other clubs got their act together and Celtic didn't read the signs and started losing out on the best young talent.

"There are now scouts everywhere trying to find the diamond and that means youngsters and parents are now more choosy. They 'shop around' at the various clubs offering trials before deciding which offers them the best future.

"I have 14 years of youth coaching behind me in Canada and I was also coach to their World Cup side in '86 as well as being in charge of the youth system at Birmingham City recently, and I know the kinds of things I want to do at Parkhead to get our youth programme back among the best. That's where the Dallas Cup comes in.

"I want to win the Super League section, but I also see it as a great chance to give some of our very young players at the club a chance to get experience against some of the best youth teams in the world.

"The big difference is that our boys won't be able to play in the normal British style because it will be warmer and more humid in Texas and they will have to adapt.

"I know from my time in North America that footballers at that age are as good, if not better than, their counterparts on this side of the Atlantic. We will hopefully be able to augment our side with one or two of the reserve team players who are under 19, if they can be spared."

The man in charge of the team in Dallas will be Ashley Grimes, the former Republic of Ireland international who was a forward with Manchester United and Coventry and is part of Macari's backroom team.

Past master . . . Kenny Dalglish.

Among the Celtic youngsters will be a few who have already made a name for themselves, including goalkeeper Stewart Kerr, a Scotland Under-21 cap at just 18 years of age, and central-defender Jamie McQuillan who has also appeared for the Under-21s.

Simon Donnelly, a Scotland youth international and one of the main Parkhead tips for the top, will be in the Dallas Cup trying to extend his reputation as a prolific goalscorer.

"The Dallas Cup is one of the most prestigious and respected youth tournaments in world football," said Taylor. "This trip, sponsored by *WORLD SOCCER* will be an invaluable opportunity for us."

American Airlines®
DALLAS CUP® XV

WORLD SOCCER — an official sponsor of the American Airlines Dallas Cup XV

Verdy look unbeatable

VERDY KAWASAKI clinched the J.League's second stage with consecutive victories in their final nine games. In the process, Verdy (right) scored 24 goals and conceded only four. Only arch-rivals Yokohama Marinos took them to extra time.

The climax came on December 1 against Shimizu S Pulse in a repeat of the previous week's J.League Yamazaki Nabisco Cup final. Shimizu had already slipped badly with a 2-0 home defeat to Kashima Antlers, so this was their last chance to catch the Kawasaki team.

After criticism of Shimizu's defensive tactics in the Cup final, Leao took the gamble of virtually sacrificing midfield and playing four forwards.

The result was a fast and furious game with plenty of end-to-end play, but Shimizu rarely created scoring chances. Verdy's winner came in the 26th minute, Ramos feeding the ball to Kazuyoshi Miura, whose shot rebounded off the post for centre-forward Nobuhiro Takeda to tap in.

Leao praised his team for fighting to the end, but all the J.League managers must now be wondering how they can possibly stop Verdy.

Verdy put the title beyond doubt with a 4-0 trouncing of Urawa Red Diamonds the following week. Bismarck (below), on loan to Verdy from Vasco da Gama, was asked after the match which team was stronger: Vasco or Verdy? His answer, Verdy, was predictable, but this time he looked as if he meant it.

Excluding a defeat to Shimizu on penalties in August, Verdy have not lost in the league since July 25, when they fell 3-0 to Yokohama Marinos on the opening day of the second stage. It is significant that Bismarck, the linchpin of midfield, debuted in the next match.

The big question for Verdy now is how to keep him as his seven-month loan expires in January. Bismarck, 24, says that he wants to stay in Japan, but Vasco have not made any promises yet. They are likely to drive a hard bargain.

Despite their success on the field, Verdy failed to steamroller the J.League's administrators in late November when they announced a plan to move to Tokyo. The J.League has no Tokyo team but several local governments are eager to host one.

Verdy, as Japan's strongest team, feel they should be chosen.

The J.League had other ideas, especially since Kawasaki City had recently pledged a large sum to enlarge its Todoroki Stadium for the club. The renovated all-seater stadium will have a capacity of 25,000. The league, which places strong emphasis on fostering ties with the local communities, regards the whole idea of moving, especially so early and in such awkward circumstances, with extreme distaste.

Verdy were forced to retract that announcement on December 14, but the club have still not given up the idea of finding a home in the capital.

The following day, the final one of the second stage, also included a tussle at the bottom of the table. Urawa Red Diamonds might have leapfrogged Nagoya Grampus Eight thanks to a 2-0 win over Gamba Osaka, but Grampus went four better, with a crushing 6-0 win over JEF United to move into eighth place.

New manager Gordon Milne, watching Grampus for the first time from the stands seated beside Gary Lineker, could be forgiven for wondering what all the problems were.

Urawa Red Diamonds also have a new manager, 50-year-old Kenzo Yokoyama, the former Mitsubishi goakeeper and bronze medallist at the 1968 Olympic Games. He previously managed Mitsubishi, the club which became Urawa RD, from 1976, leading them to theLeague, League Cup and Emperor's Cup in 1978.

Like Takaji Mori, whom he repalces, Yokoyama is also a former manager of the national team, which he ran for four years until handing over the reins to Hans Ooft in 1992.

Kashima Antlers are improving in time for January's play-offs with Verdy Kawasaki for the J.League championship. Kashima, winners of the league's first stage, were disrupted in the latter half but the balance now seems to be restored.

Zico, at 40, is scoring at a rate to suggest he would have been one of the league's top strikers but for the injury that sidelined him for most of the first stage. Centre-forward Hisashi Kurosaki is also looking sharp, netting the decisive goals against Shimizu S Pulse. But Kashima lost 2-1 to Verdy in the final game of the second stage, the winner coming from a Miura.

Elsewhere, the J.League's dignity was preserved in the early rounds of the Emperor's Cup, Japan's equivalent to the FA Cup. No J.League sides lost to lesser opposition, and the last eight are all from the J.League.

Besides a new manager, Urawa have also signed Slovakian forward Lubomir Luhovy from Inter Bratislava. The 26-year-old, a former team-mate of Urawa keeper Miroslav Mentel, was top scorer in Czechoslovakia in 1989-90. He played for the Czechs and Slovaks against Wales in a 1994 World Cup qualifier and joined in January.

Hans Ooft, who led Japan in the Asian qualifiers, has signed a two-year contract to manage Jubilo Iwata, one of two new teams elected to join the J.League next season. Ooft's relationship with Iwata goes back 10 years. He coached them in 1982-83, helping them win the 1982 Emperor's Cup.

The Football Association of Japan failed in its first direct talks with a prospective successor to the national team post, Tele Santana of Sao Paulo.

Santana was in Japan in December for the World Club Cup, but the Japanese baulked at his demand for a salary of around £2million plus a package including fellow Brazilian coaches.

The biggest problem now facing the Japanese is that everyone thinks they are loaded.

MIKE PLASTOW AND MICHI ISHIJIMA

EMPEROR'S CUP

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5

First Round *(all neutral grounds)*

Kashima Anters 1, NKK 1 (Kashima won 3-2 on pens); Tohoku Denryoku 3, Sanyo Sumoto 2; Grampus Eight 2, Jubilo Iwata 1; Kochi Univ 0, Gamba Osaka 5; JEF United 3, Osaka Commercial Univ 0; Toshiba 2, Fukuoka Univ 1; Seino Unyu 1, Chun Univ 2; Sapporo Univ 0, Shimizu S Pulse 6; Yokohama Marinos 3, Kashiwa Reysol 1; Doshisha Univ 2, Kawasaki Seitetsu 4; Waseda Univ 3, Hokuriku Denryoku 0; Konoya College of PE 1, Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2; Yokohama Flugels 4, Tanabe Seiyaku 1; Otsuka Seiyaku 0, Urawa Red Diamonds 3; Cosmo Sekiyu 1, Bellmare Hiratsuka 0; Hokuden 0, Verdy Kawasaki 5.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11

Second Round *(all neutral grounds)*

Kashima Antlers 6, Tohoku Denryoku 1; JEF United 2, Toshiba 0; Shimizu S Pulse 1, Chuo Univ 0; Verdy Kawasaki 2, Cosmo Sekiyu 0; Yokohama Marinos 2, Kawasaki Seitetsu 1; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2, Waseda Univ 0; Yokohama Flugels 4, Urawa Red Diamonds 3; Grampus Eight 3, Gamba Osaka 2.

J.LEAGUE — SECOND STAGE

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

WEEKEND

J.LEAGUE — 2ND STAGE

JEF UNITED 3 (Ordenewitz 26, 86, Pavel Rehak 45)
GAMBA OSAKA 4 (Isogai 44, Matsunami 65, 78, 94). **Att:** 10,395.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Amarilla 17, Edu 73 pen)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Mizuuchi 14). **Att:** 15,121.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Shima 21)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Fumitake Miura 55, Mizunuma 67). **Att:** 14,640.

GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Jorginho 35)
VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Bismarck 63, Kazuyoshi Miura 85). **Att:** 26,584.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 0
KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Kurosaki 47, 80). **Att:** 9,231.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

MIDWEEK

J.LEAGUE YAMAZAKI NABISCO CUP — FINAL

VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Bismarck 73, Kitazawa 85)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Oenoke 13). **Att:** 53,677.

WEEKEND

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0
SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Sawainobori 22) Edu 42). **Att:** 50,348.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0
KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Zico 22). **Att:** 29,091.

VERDY KAWASAKI 3 (Ramos 54, Kazuyoshi Miura 74 pen, Bismarck)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 0. **Att:** 10,229.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Koizumi 28, Yamada 47)
JEF UNITED 0. **Att:** 27,495.

GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Ishii 68, Matsuyama 86)
GRAMPUS EIGHT 2 (Moriyama 18, Goto 83). **Att:** 13,069. *Gamba won 6-5 on pens.*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

MIDWEEK

SHIMIZU S PULSE 0
VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Takeda 26). **Att:** 52,285.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 2 (Rummenigge 4, Motoyoshi 104)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Santos 43). **Att:** 9,256.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Shima 47, 66)
JEF UNITED 0. **Att:** 10,006.

YOKOHAMAM FLUGELS 0
GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Yamaguchi 54). **Att:** 14,374.

GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Jorginho 15)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Diaz 30, Mizunuma 56). **Att:** 11,446.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

MIDWEEK

VERDY KAWASAKI 4 (Miura 17, 27, 82, Fujiyoshi 79)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0. **Att:** 50,310.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 3 (Alcindo 4, 81, Ono 27)
JEF UNITED 0. **Att:** 13,282.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Cerny 106)
GRAMPUS EIGHT 0. **Att:** 9,672.

GAMBA OSAKA 0
SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Iwashita 28, Hasegawa 34). **Att:** 21,207.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 4 (Diaz 11, 56, 79, Everton 43)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Aldrovani 78). **Att:** 13,024.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

MIDWEEK

GRAMPUS EIGHT 6 (Moriyama 22, Mori 33, Hirano 41, 58, Jorginho 52, Elivelton 83)
JEF UNITED 0. **Att:** 11,173.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 2 (Mizuchi 39, 64)
GAMBA OSAKA 0. **Att:** 8,940.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Alcindo 23)
VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Ishikawa 27, Miura 68). **Att:** 15,227.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Oenoki 55)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0. **Att:**48,937.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Moner 89)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Cerny 54, Shima 71).

J.LEAGUE 2ND STAGE — *FINAL TABLE*

	P	W	L	F	A
Verdy Kawasaki	18	16	2	43	10
Shimizu S Pulse	18	14	4	26	9
Yokohama Marinos	18	10	8	31	24
Kashima Antlers	18	10	8	31	25
Sanfrecce Hiroshima	18	9	9	31	25
Gamba Osaka	18	8	10	24	34
Yokohama Flugels	18	8	10	20	30
Nagoya Grampus Eight	18	5	13	27	28
Jef United Ichihara	18	5	13	25	44
Urawa Red Diamonds	18	5	13	15	44

Leading Scorers *(1st & 2nd stages)*

1 ....Ramon Diaz (Yokohama Marinos).....28
2 ....Alcindo (Kashima Antlers) 22
3 ....Kazuyoshi Miura (Yomiuri Verdy).....20
4 ....Nobuhiro Takeda (Yomiuri Verdy) 17
5 ....Pavel Rehak (JEF United).....16
6 ....Edu (Shimizu S Pulse) 13
7 ....Akihiro Nagashima (Gamba Osaka) 12
8 ....Takuya Takagi (Sanfrecce Hiroshima)....11
Hisashi Kurosaki (Kashima Antlers).....11
10 ..Jebta Hasegawa (Shimizu S Pulse).....10
Pavel Cerny (Sanfrecce Hiroshima).....10
Osamu Maeda (Yokohama Flugels) 10
13 ..Yoshiyuki Hasegawa (Kashima Antlers) ...9
Zico (Kashima Antlers)..... 9
Pierre Littbarski (JEF United).....9
Jorginho (Grampus Eight).....9

It's a long, long time . . . from March to November

THE J.League's second season kicks off at Tokyo's national stadium on March 12, with a match between Verdy Kawasaki and Bellmare Hiratsuka, champions of Division One in 1993.

Teams again face two games a week, with the first stage (Suntory Series) running to June 15.

There is then a break for the World Cup finals with the second stage (Nicos Series) running from August 10 to November 19, with a break in October for the Asian Games which are being held in Hiroshima.

The winners of the two stages play off for the championship over two legs, on November 26 and 30, and the Yamazaki Nabisco Cup is squeezed in between July 23 and August 6.

The season ends with the Emperor's Cup, which J.League teams enter towards the closing stages in December. The final, as always, is at Tokyo's National Stadium on New Year's Day 1995.

The first J.League also was intended to run from March to November, but had to be delayed due to World Cup qualifiers.

The lower Japan League, played in two divisions this year, will be combined into a single league of 16 teams in a season from April 24 to October 23.

An 85th-minute goal by Tsuyoshi Kitazawa clinched the Yamazaki Nabisco Cup for Verdy Kawasaki for the second consecutive year.

In a repeat of last year's final, which Verdy won 1-0, the opponents were Shimizu S Pulse. Katsumi Oenoki gave Shimizu the lead after 13 minutes, and another hour passed before Bismarck equalised. Then a lovely run and cross by Nagai set up Kitazawa's winner.

Bismarck, named Man of the Match, also finished the tournament as top scorer with six.

"I'm grateful to Christ for winning the Cup," said Bismarck, wearing a Jesus Lives T-shirt.

"I'm glad I came to Yomiuri. Other teams were interested, but it wasn't a mistake."

Shimizu coach Leao offered some barbed compliments in defeat: "Verdy have the money and great players, but they are the only team allowed to field five foreigners. It is more of an achievement for Shimizu to be second than for Verdy to be first."

Five foreigners? The two extra, according to Leao, are Ramos (Brazilian, now naturalised Japanese), and Miura (Japanese, trained in Brazil).

MIKE PLASTOW AND MICHI ISHIJIMA

NEW ZEALAND

Fallon spreads the word

THE days when Englishmen took soccer to the globe's far corners are not over — as Kevin Fallon is proving.

Fallon, originally from South Yorkshire, is now technical director of the Oceania Football Confederation — a position funded by FIFA which involves him in promoting and organising the game on the South Pacific's distant islands.

Since his appointment just over a year ago, Fallon has visited Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, French Polynesia and the Cook Islands.

Although he is always impressed by the enthusiasm that greets him, and has established numerous coaching programmes and initiated several league competitions, he admits that much of his work has little or no chance of long-term success.

Sadly, the island associations do not have the infrastructure to harness the talent in the outer islands. The situation in Ambae, Vanuatu, is typically irksome for Fallon.

"They have a wonderful little stadium in the middle of the jungle," he reflects. "I coached over 40 kids there — several had walked ten miles or more from their villages — and all had marvellous ability.

"But they have virtually no playing equipment and only those who move to the capital will have any chance of fulfilling their potential.

"The Vanuatu Football Federation's resources don't seem to stretch beyond Port Vila and, tragically, all that talent will probably never come out of the jungle."

The clearings where Fallon now passes on his knowledge are far removed from the back streets of Rotherham where he first kicked a ball. After stints with Rotherham United, Southend United and Sligo Rovers, his professional career was effectively ended by a night-club brawl in 1970.

He then decided to try his luck in New Zealand, playing for Gisborne City and then coaching a handful of clubs and being employed by the New Zealand FA.

Although he was always controversial and outspoken, his enthusiasm and devotion were never questioned.

He helped both Gisborne City and Nelson United to major domestic honours, and was assistant coach of the Kiwi side who qualified for the 1982 World Cup finals, but the greatest testimony to Fallon's capabilities is his work in establishing Centres of Excellence.

These provide New Zealand soccer with the cornerstone of the most efficient youth development programme possible on a very restricted budget.

One of the biggest beneficiaries is Fallon's eldest son, Sean, who recently signed a professional contract with Liverpool.

Nothing would give Fallon greater pleasure than seeing one of the eager hopefuls of Ambae, or another Pacific backwater, following in Sean's footsteps.

PAUL MOON

ASIAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

ASIAN football minnows Maldives created history when they qualified for the finals of the 13th Asian Club Championship by default.

Eight clubs qualified for the finals after playing a three-month preliminary competition on home and away basis. The finals will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from January 28 to February 7.

The other seven clubs are the J.League's top side Yomiuri Verdy, last year's runners-up Al Shabab (Saudi Arabia), last years hosts Al Muharrak (Bahrain), Farmers Club (Thailand), Liaoning (China), Omani (Oman) and Al Ansar (Lebanon).

MALAYSIA

KEDAH, the yellow and green shirted Cinderella team of Malaysia's Northern State, completed a great six-month run by winning the 68th Malaysia Cup — beating Singapore 2-0 in the final held in Kuala Lumpur's Merdeka Stadium.

In 1990 Kedah won the Cup for the first time beating Singapore.

Kedah started rebuilding their team from 1991 when they were relegated and have become Malaysia's best side under Dutch coach Robert Alberts.

Singapore were denied the Cup title for the third time in 12 years, their last win was in 1980.

In the semi-finals both the B-group qualifiers, Singapore and Kedah, outclassed their Group A counterparts Sarawak and Kelantan respectively.

In the 13th minute of the final unmarked Lee King Hong, at the far post, headed home.

In the 69th minute Kedah's striker Radhi Mat Din slipped in for a second to make it 2-0.

Kedah's home city, Alor Star, came to a standstill as more than 25,000 Kedahans took time off to be at the Sultan Abdul Hamid airport and line the streets.

AZAM MAHMOOD

SOUTH KOREA

The Seo and Noh Show

Patient . . . Cheetahs winger Seo Jung-won.

BETWEEN them Seo Jung-won and Noh Jung-yoon played all but 41 minutes of South Korea's five matches in the final Asian qualifying round for this year's World Cup.

But they never appeared on the pitch at the same time.

The two youngsters represent South Korea's main strategic hopes — and options — at the final tournament as well.

Seo Jung-won (born in 1970) and Noh Jung-yoon (1971) have a lot in common — similar in size and graduates of Korai University, one of South Korea's best.

Noh made his mark early, becoming his country's youngest full international when only 17. Seo was not far behind, skippering the Olympic team and scoring a vital goal against China.

Both are very, very fast and can play anywhere in midfield or attack.

Seo alternates between the wings at his club, Lucky Gold Star Cheetahs — 30 minutes on the left, 10 on the right, 15 on the left and so on, switching again as soon as the defence start to settle.

He also has spells as centre-forward, but in the national team he is mostly on the left.

Noh plays mainly on the left at his club, Sanfrecce Hiroshima in Japan's J.League, supporting national team centre-forward Takuya Takagi. But he played central midfield for some national team practice games before the World Cup.

All that changed again during the second qualifying round, when both were used on the right wing.

South Korea's basic strategy was to deliver long passes from defence, with rapid movements down both wings. Seo and Noh handled all business on the right with fast breaks and lightning crosses towards the target men.

Seo insists, however, that they were not competing for the position.

"We just play whatever role we are given. Our roles will change again."

Stuart Baxter, Noh's manager at Hiroshima, was equally sanguine when asked what Noh's natural position might be. That, he said, is a bit like asking whether Maradona plays in midfield or attack.

Prospective opponents this summer should note the dangers involved if Seo does move back to the left. That will place him directly in front of Lucky Gold Star team-mate and veteran national team skipper Gu Sang-bum.

The differences between the two? Noh runs and dribbles tenaciously while Seo is more likely to bide his time, waiting for the big chance.

But in the end it is the ability of both to take on any role and above all to perform it with devastating speed, that should give South Korea their best scoring chances in the US.

MIKE PLASTOW AND MICHI ISHIJIMA

INDIA

Vibrant Vasco

VISITING sides have been under the spotlight in India recently. The most illustrious of them was Vasco da Gama from Rio de Janeiro, who played three exhibition games against a Combined XI of questionable pedigree.

The composite team was made up of leading Indian players reinforced by a handful of South American veterans, including Jose Luis Brown, Ricardo Giusti and Ricardo Bochini.

The Brazilians did indeed provide an exhibition and displayed all the skills associated with soccer in their homeland. The Combined XI, not surprisingly, failed to gel and merely played a cameo role. They allowed Vasco all the time and space they required and the games were little more than showcases for Geovani, Valdi, Gian and company.

After a 0-0 draw in Coimbator, Vasco won 3-0 in Madras and 1-0 in Kochi.

Port Authority of Thailand were very much the famine after the feast, but proved good enough to win the Bordoloi Trophy at Guwahati. Local clubs East Bengal (5-2) and Mohun Bagan (1-0) were defeated in the semi-final and final respectively.

Two weeks later, the restoration of Indian pride came from an unlikely source. The previously unrated Rising Star of Cuttack defeated Bangladesh's Victoria Sporting Club 1-0 in the Governor's Gold Cup Final at Gangtok. Mohun Bagan were among Victor's victims en-route to the final.

AUSTRALIA

Aussies down, then out

EN-ROUTE to World Cup elimination in Argentina and fielding just one Europe-based professional (SC Heerenveen reserve Milan Blagojevic), Australia suffered two defeats by Chilean club sides.

In the first, a Colo Colo team containing eight internationals prevailed 3-2. Gabriel Mendoza, a Mehmet Durakovic own goal and Marco Etcheverry put the hosts three ahead just after half time but two Carl Veart strikes salvaged a respectable scoreline.

A week later, against what was ostensibly Universidad Catolica's youth team, the Australians suffered a more embarrassing 1-0 loss. Appropriately, the only goal of an ill-tempered, error-strewn match was scored by a player bearing the name of a 1950's English music hall comedian. Max Miller's successful 18th-minute penalty was the only occasion when a score looked even remotely likely.

THE National Soccer League Cup has never really been regarded as being of much importance and the 1993 edition was relegated to the status of a pre-season tournament.

Just 4,156 attended an all-Sydney final at the Marconi Stadium and the game hardly rated a mention in newspapers outside of the New South Wales capital. Parramatta Eagles, who have become Cup specialists in recent years, won the trophy with a 2-0 win over Sydney United (formerly Sydney Croatia). Volimar Kupresak's own-goal gave Parramatta the advantage just before half time and Brian Renaud scored the clincher with six minutes remaining.

The League started a week later with Brunswick United, champions in 1985, returning after four years of state league soccer to replace the relegated Preston.

WESTERN SAMOA

Vaivase-Tai tops

VAIVASE-TAI underlined their supremacy in Western Samoa by completing the 1993 season as holders of both the League Championship and Challenge Shield.

FIJI

Nadi's nadir

THERE was a heated end to the season in the promotion-relegation series in Fiji when referee Prakas Chandra abandoned the final match after spectators invaded the pitch for a second time to celebrate what proved to be a winning goal.

Second Division champions Savusavu gained a 1-0 win over Nadi in their home leg and retained this advantage until the return game's 67th minute when Iqbal Khan equalised and spared the initial crowd invasion.

Khan scored again with two minutes remaining and once more spectators spiller over onto the pitch, several of them threatening the visitors. After order had been restored, the obviously shaken Savusavu players refused to restart and Mr Chandra ended the match.

Nadi were fined a mere £500 by the Fijian FA for the inadequacy of their crowd control, but retained First Division status. Whether or not the FFA retained its credibility is open to question.

KUWAIT

Zeidan's decider

THE first competition for the Crown Prince's Trophy was won by Al Kuwait, who beat Kazmah by the only goal in the final. All 14 First Division clubs competed in a league-then-knock-out format, over a period 58 days.

Al Kuwait topped the first group, with Kazmah second, and Jahra headed the other ahead of Al Arabi. In the semi-finals, Al Kuwait beat Al Arabi 2-1 and Kazmah won by the only goal against Jahra, who had some consolation by winning the third-place match 3-2. The final was a close affair, decided by Talal Zeidan's goal in the 45th minute.

BROOKING TALKBACK

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters. . .

Fair go for the Socceroos if you please!

DEAR TREVOR — What must Australia do to qualify in a World Cup?

First: They must come first in one of two Oceania groups.

Second: They must beat the first team of the other Oceania group in a two-leg tie.

Third: They must beat the CONCACAF runners-up over two legs.

Fourth: They must beat one of two runners-up in South America, again in two legs.

After ALL these matches and after playing with teams from all around the world, Australia can qualify.

Is this fair? Is it really a World Cup? Australia are the Brazil of Oceania, but Brazil qualified having won five matches, drawn two and lost one. Australia won seven matches, drew one and lost two.

I wish somebody from FIFA would do something about it.

— ANDREAS TELEVANTOS, Nicosia, Cyprus.

● I HAVE some sympathy for your complaint, although there are bound to be numerous countries who feel a similar frustration at failing to qualify. FIFA endeavour to get a strong final group of 24 nations, and there will be many who argue that the early matches or Australia are less demanding than in other areas, and that explains the extra qualifying process. With the growth in the number of countries now participating this dilemma seems set to increase in the future, and so regretfully it might become even harder.

Italian is best

DEAR TREVOR — I am heartily sick of hearing the pompous moralising of English commentators decrying the diving and play-acting of "continental" footballers, especially Italians.

Italian defenders are expert at the nudge or shirt-tug designed to prevent the striker attacking the ball at the right moment; Italian attackers correspondingly exaggerate the effects of these subterfuge manoeuvres to persuade the referee to award a free-kick. The two cancel each other out.

What cannot be questioned is that the Italian game encourages skill to flourish in ways that the "honest" English game does not, and that, even in the realm of physical contact, its players possess a finesse and subtlety which our hapless performers can only dream about.

— PETER ASPDEN, London, W14.

● I DON'T accept Italians are singled out any more than others, but do believe the antics of certain players make it extremely difficult for referees to judge the genuine fouls.

The World Cup Final in 1990 was unfortunately marred by continual stoppages of this kind, and it reduces the chances of an entertaining match for supporters.

Something old . . .

DEAR TREVOR — Why not reintroduce the Home International Championship, round-robin league played after the season by all four home countries? They would only be playing friendlies anyway.

This would be the perfect way for England to get their act together, for Scotland and Northern Ireland to settle down with new managers, and for Wales to win a trophy, maybe.

I am too young to remember the last Home International Championship, and why it was scrapped, but I'm sure you played in it. Did it generate enough passion to be competitive?

— JONATHAN BANTON, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

● I CAN assure you there was no doubting the passion. It was a shame these traditional fixtures disappeared because they did produce some memorable encounters. One obstacle was the crowded club fixtures which restricted the available dates for such matces. If it was held back for the end of the season, then it meant there was little scope to include other internationals where the experience was essential if players were to sample different styles of play. For young players, I reckon the more chances they have to learn from foreign opposition the better, and I believe our game needs to learn from others. So doubt whether a return to the Home International Championship would be advisable.

Qualified success?

DEAR TREVOR — England must wait nearly three years before their next competitive game, when they host the 1996 Euro Championship.

Would it not be a good idea for the hosts and holders of a major championship to have to qualify, because this would help them in their preparation for the finals?

— TREVOR BLAND, Billingham, Cleveland.

● THE lack of competitive matches for England is a problem but I believe both holders and hosts must remain exempt from qualification. For a tournament to be viable financially it must have the presence of the host nation, otherwise attendances and enthusiasm would suffer badly. The holders deserve the reward for their success, and it gives them a chance to rebuild their side if certain players are reaching the latter stages of their international careers.

Barmy Brazilians

DEAR TREVOR — As a life-long fan of Brazilian football, I feel dismayed to read about the shambolic state of their game every month in *WORLD SOCCER*. A combination of horrendous maladministration and corruption has led to a ridiculous number of club competitions and crazy fixture lists which, in turn, have caused a drastic fall in the standard of play, behaviour and support from the fans.

Sounds familiar? OK, so perhaps the British game hasn't quite reached those depths, but there are clearly certain parallels to be drawn. And yet there is one very positive lesson to be learned from both leagues, and this is that skill and creativity can still overcome destructive tactics — look at Sao Paulo and Manchester United.

So managers should be using such teams as role models instead of trying to bash their way to success.

— RAJIV HASAN, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

● I AM always delighted when the better passing sides are successful, and Manchester United's exciting performances are a terrific example for youngsters. The long-ball style is extremely difficult to combat in the English winters, but is a complete non-starter in the heat and humidity of a World Cup tournament.

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● Comments are Trevor Brooking's opinions and do not necessarily reflect *WORLD SOCCER'S* views. He will only answer those letters published.

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NSL clubs face corruption probe

THE practice of registering foreign players in the National Soccer League as South Africans, using false names and documents, has been brought sharply into focus, with serious consequences for Durban's Chatsworth Rangers.

Rangers beat Witbank Aces 2-0 in the semi-final of the Bob Save Superbowl (FA Cup) with their three permissable foreign players, Zambians Albert Bwalya and Tenant Chambo and South American Ricardo Cano. Aces then successfully appealed alleging that Anthony Aphane was a Liberian international, Anthony Togbah.

With evidence provided by the Liberian FA, the claim was proven.

Goalkeeper Togbah was born in Monrovia, 26 July, 1972 and played for Invincible FC before officially transferring to Bloemfontein Celtic in 1991. During his time with Celtic, he acquired the documents of a dead man, whose name he then became known by — moving on to Ratanang FC in 1992 and Rangers this season.

Rangers were expelled from the Bob Save and fined 10,000 Rand.

Aces replaced them in the final and caused a major upset when Richard Perr scored only seconds from the final whistle to beat Kaizer Chiefs.

Mamelodi Sundowns duly secured the NSL League title and to illustrate the competitive quality of the National League, South Africa's three entrants for the African continental cups in 1994 will be completely different to those of this current season.

The successful appeal by Aces against Rangers has brought forward a number of allegations related to NSL League results. Claims are that Rangers, Bloemfontein Celtic, Qwa Qwa Stars and D'Alberton Callies knowingly fielded in excess of three foreign players.

These and other suspicions are being investigated by NSL officials and could result in adjustments to NSL League results, or possibly even relegation for offending clubs.

SAFA are organising a four-team tournament for February with the proposed participation of the three World Cup qualifiers for the US: Nigeria, Cameroon and a European or South American team. South Africa's coach, Augusto Palacios, will be hoping to field a full strength side. But this is unlikely with many players abroad.

The homeland FA of Bophuthatswana are in negotiation with SAFA in an attempt to bring about unity. FABO were not recognised when SAFA were readmitted to FIFA and the CAF. Former Kaizer Chiefs coach Joe Frickleton (FABO President), and Bill McGarry (FABO Director of Coaching) are included in the delegation.

The popularity of soccer in the Townships was emphasised by figures recently revealed by the Central Districts FA. There are 21,880 players, aged 8 years to senior, registered with 1094 teams in Soweto.

BARRY BAKER

Africans banned after fan violence

BLOODY battles between rival fans has cost both Ivory Coast and Ghana places in this year's African club competitions.

The two West African giants have been indefinitely expelled by the Confederation of African Football. The decision taken at CAF's executive committee meeting in Cairo last December followed the death of at least two people in Abidjan, capital of Ivory Coast, after Ghana's Asante Kotoko had beaten ASEC Abidjan in the Champions Cup semi-final.

Bloody attacks on mostly Ghanaian immigrants in the Treichville quarter of the city followed ASEC's elimination on the away goals rule. They went down 2-0 in Kumasi after winning the first leg 3-1 at home two weeks earlier.

The trouble started in the first leg at the Felix-Houphouet Boigny stadium in Abdijan, when one Ghanaian allegedly died after a scuffle outside the stadium.

Thousands of ASEC fans made the short journey across the border for the second leg, but were allegedly terrorised by Ghana supporters and had to do without protection from the Ghanaian police.

Many were also shut out of the Kumasi stadium for the second leg and stoned on their return bus journey. ASEC fans also allegedly attacked Ghanaians along the way and when they returned home Ghanaians in Abidjan were stoned.

There was a two-day orgy of murder, rape and looting during which the Ivorian police, this time, allegedly did little to bring matters to order. Officials said a total of 25 died, but Ghanaian officials, who visited Ivory Coast in the wake of the riots, said the toll was higher.

The CAF, who were criticised for not taking decisive action before Kotoko's Champions Cup final defeat by Egypt's Zamalek, made their decision after hearing from both clubs and the Federations.

Their deliberations lasted several days and delayed the draw for the 1994 African Champions Cup, African Cup-winners Cup and the CAF Cup by four days.

CAF decided that the two associations had been responsible for the tragic events, along with the press in the two countries.

"The negative attitude of the press, which orchestrated a campaign of hatred and xenophobia, was at the origin of these painful events," said a CAF statement announcing the shock decision.

It was decided to suspend all teams from the two countries from all CAF club competitions "indefinitely" and "to launch a solemn appeal to the authorities of the two countries in order to spare no effort so that a climate of friendship and fraternity may reign over the relations between the two states".

The decision affects not only Kotoko and ASEC, both of whom had again qualified to play in the Champions Cup, but five other clubs, including Stella Abidjan, who had just weeks earlier won the CAF Cup.

Both countries have appealed against the decision, with Ghana Football Association president Nana Brew-Butler calling it a "high-handed decision".

Ousseynou Dieng, president of the Ivorian Federation, also announced his country's intention to appeal.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

NIGERIA have some urgent dates to fulfil before going to the United States for the World Cup . . . competing in the African Nations Cup in Tunisia.

The 12-team tournament is being staged between March 26 and April 10, with four qualifying groups of three teams followed by knock-out quarter-finals and semi-finals, leading up to the third-place game and the final.

Nigeria, who won the tournament in 1980, have been drawn in the same group as triple winners Egypt and outsiders Gabon.

The holders, Ivory Coast, are in the same section as Zambia and Sierra Leone, and the 1992 runners-up, Ghana — who have won the trophy a record four times — go in against Senegal and Guinea. Zaire, the only other previous winners taking part this time, face Tunisia and Mali.

EAST AFRICA

KENYA

HOSTS Kenya overwhelmed local rivals Tanzania and Uganda in a three-team tournament held in Nairobi to mark 30 years of Kenyan independence.

The Kenyans opened their account with an impressive 2-1 win over Uganda, all three goals coming in the first half. Prolific striker Henry Motego and midfielder Tony Lwanga put the Harambee Stars two up before Iddi Batambuze got one back for the visitors.

Tanzania's Taifa Stars, missing nine players who were involved in Simba's CAF Cup final ties against Ivory Coast's Stella Abidjan, just edged past the unlucky Ugandans. The only goal came from winger Nteze John six minutes from time.

In the decider, Kenya beat Tanzania 2-1 but were never in any real danger of losing. The hosts were two in front after seven minutes with goals by Musa Otieno and Sammy Omollo, and should have had several more. Nteze John was on the mark again for Tanzania after 72 minutes, but there was no further scoring.

PHIL MINSHULL

WEST AFRICA

IVORY COAST

THE Ivorian Federation cancelled the last two rounds of the championship and declared ASEC Abidjan, four points clear at the time, as the winners.

The Federation cited "disturbances to the calendar" as their reason. In 1992 the championship also was ended prematurely with three rounds to go following fan violence.

MARK GLEESON

INDIAN OCEAN

MAURITIUS

DEFENDING champions Fire Brigade are the early leaders in the new championship with a one-point advantage over Cadets, who have nine points from the opening five matches.

Cadets fans are being blamed for damage, estimated at £70,000, to the newly-built Sir Anerood Guganauth Stadium in Pamplemousse after forcing the abandonment of a league game against the Maurice Espoirs team.

Fans destroyed fixings at the stadium and set fire to the athletics track which surrounds the pitch. Seven fans were arrested and Cadets were forced to play their next home match behind closed doors.

NORTH AFRICA

SUDAN

A MATCH between two top Sudanese clubs had to be abandoned after fans rioted and attacked players and officials of the visiting side, seriously injuring their coach.

The rare bout of hooliganism in Sudanese sport erupted during a game between Al Hilal and Al Mourada.

Al Mourada coach Ahmad Babiker was taken to hospital with serious injuries and police had to be called in to restore order.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SWAZILAND

COSAFA YOUTH TOURNAMENT

Young Zambians stand tall

ZAMBIA regained their place as the leading exponents of youth soccer in the southern African region by winning the Confederation of Southern African Football Associations youth tournament in Swaziland last December.

The Zambians dethroned holders Zimbabwe, winners of the last tournament in 1991, in the final of the nine-nation event hosted in the tiny mountain kingdom.

The hosts showed their quality by topping their opening-round group and beating South Africa in their opening match. This was South Africa's first outing at under-20 level and their squad, mainly composed of up-and-coming NSL Castle League players, received a hefty jolt when Namibia's 1-1 draw with Malawi meant they failed to reach the semi-finals.

The Namibians, playing in the tournament for only the second time, were seemingly overcome with their success and, having lost the semi-final to Zambia, withdrew from the third-place play-off complaining of tiredness!

1993 COSAFA YOUTH TOURNAMENT *(Swaziland)*

Group A: Botswana 1 Malawi 0, Swaziland 2 South Africa 0, Swaziland 3 Botswana 0, Malawi 0 South Africa 6, Botswana 0 Namibia 3, Swaziland 2 Malawi 0, Namibia 1 South Africa 1, Swaziland 0 Namibia 1, Botswana 0 South Africa 2, Namibia 1 Malawi 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SWAZILAND	4	3	0	1	8	1	6
NAMIBIA	4	2	2	0	6	2	6
South Africa	4	2	1	1	9	3	5
Botswana	4	1	0	3	1	8	2
Malawi	4	0	1	3	1	11	1

Group B: Lesotho 0 Mozambique 2, Zambia 3 Zimbabwe 1, Mozambique 1 Zambia 1, Lesotho 0 Zimbabwe 6, Lesotho 0 Zambia 2, Mozambique 0 Zimbabwe 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZAMBIA	3	2	1	0	6	2	5
ZIMBABWE	3	2	0	1	10	3	4
Mozambique	3	1	1	1	3	4	3
Lesotho	3	0	0	3	0	10	0

Semi-finals:
Namibia 1 Zambia 4, Swaziland 0 Zimbabwe 1.

Final:
Zambia 1 Zimbabwe 0.

AFRICAN CLUB COMPETITIONS

Egyptian double

EGYPT pulled off a rare one-two with victory in both the African Champions Cup and the African Cup-winners Cup.

Cairo clubs Al Ahly and Zamalek repeated their feat of 1986 with wins in the respective tournaments and at the same time re-established the north African nation at the top of African soccer.

Al Ahly won their fourth Cup-winners Cup in a disputed match with the defending champions, Africa Sport of Ivory Coast. It took a penalty in the second leg of the final in Cairo to separate the two teams, with Al Ahly winning 2-1 on aggregate.

The Egyptians, who only a year before had lost 3-0 to Africa Sport in Abidjan, did well to force a 1-1 draw in the first leg of the final in the Ivorian capital, catching an over-confident Africa Sport off guard and netting first in the 52nd minute through Mohamed Al Ghalil.

They almost held out for an historic away win until Nigerian Gabriel Okolosi equalised in the final minute.

Okolosi, leading goalscorer in African competitions the previous year, had spent much of the 1993 tournament on the bench — kept out of the team by the bustling Ivorian centre forward Ahmed Ouattara.

In the return game before a packed house at Cairo's National stadium, Al Ahly won a controversial penalty five minutes after half-time when Egyptian World Cup striker Hossam Hassan clashed with a defender in the box. The incident happened away from play and the Ivorians spent five minutes physically jostling the referee.

But the decision stood and Mohamed Ramadan converted for a 1-0 win and a 2-1 aggregate success.

For Zamalek, in the Champions Cup final, it was even closer as they needed a penalty shoot-out to edge past Asante Kotoko of Ghana.

Both sides played through 180 minutes without scoring, although Zamalek were the better team over the two matches. The two sides went straight into a penalty shoot-out after 90 minutes of the second leg in Cairo as African club competition rules do not allow for extra time.

Kotoko squandered two opportunities to take the trophy for a record-equalling third time. In the end the Egyptians won 7-6.

Africa's third competition, the CAF Cup, was won by Stella Abidjan of Ivory Coast, who came from behind to beat upstarts Simba of Tanzania.

The two teams played a goalless draw in the first leg in Abidjan, setting the stage for the Tanzanian club to claim the first-ever victory for their country in an African club event.

Thousands were locked out of the stadium in Dar-es-Salaam for the return leg but there was disappointment as Stella scored twice in the second half to win 2-0 away and take the trophy.

MARK GLEESON

● *See page 62 for full results*

NSL CASTLE LEAGUE RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

MIDWEEK

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0
KAIZER CHIEFS 0.

MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Moripe 63)
DYNAMOS 1 (Munaile 35).

SANTOS 2 (McCarthy 6,13)
ORLANDO PIRATES 2 (Maponyane 23, Shimbala 35).

UMTATA BUCKS 1 (Wilfred Mugeyi 80)
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0.

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 2 (Seoke 29, Seakamela 78)
JOMO COSMOS 2 (Fish 9, Siyangaphi 15).

WEEKEND

CAPE TOWN SPURS 2 (Jantjies 50, 89)
JOMO COSMOS 0.

UMTATA BUCKS 0
SANTOS 2 (Issacs 15, Williams 35).

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 0
PRETORIA CITY 0.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

MIDWEEK

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0
ORLANDO PIRATES 2 (Shimbala 24, Mncwango 54).

HELLENIC 2 (Philander 19, P das Neves 71)
SANTOS 0.

KAIZER CHIEFS 1 (Khumalo 72)
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 0.

WEEKEND

HELLENIC 1 (Philander 62)
DYNAMOS 1 (Munaile 56).

KAIZER CHIEFS 1 (Lebese 7)
JOMO COSMOS 1 (Siyangaphi 1).

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 1 (Seakamela 1)
AMAZULU 1 (Mlaba 61).

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 1 (Goliath 62 pen)
UMTATA BUCKS 3 (Rula 51, Augustine 57, Wilfred Mugeyi 61).

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0
PRETORIA CITY 0.

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (Kambule 15, Mudau 58)
CAPE TOWN SPURS 0.

MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Sekano 11)
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0.

WITBANK ACES 1 (Peer 67)
ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Naunda 87).

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

MIDWEEK

SANTOS 1 (Saait 4)
AMAZULU 2 (Nzimande 12, Dearnaley 55).

WEEKEND

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 3 (Niemah 2, Goliath pen 30, Simpson 64)
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 0.

MOROKA SWALLOWS 4 (Makgaledisa 2, 33, 55, Sekano 20)
WELKOM EAGLES 1 (Mvula) 72.

ORLANDO PIRATES 2 (Silent 24, Nsunda 73)
CAPE TOWN SPURS 1 (Bartlett 78).

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 1 (Seakamela 7)
QWA QWA STARS 1 (Ngaduane 88).

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

MIDWEEK

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 4 (Bwalya 12, Ndimende 51, 55, 61)
UMTATA BUCKS 1 (Augustine 47).

HELLENIC 3 (Humano 1, Philander 21, Bester 24)
KAIZER CHIEFS 1 (Khumalo 64).

QWA QWA STARS 2 (Ngaduane 2)
ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Shimbala 60)

WITBANK ACES 2 (Ngobe 12, Mofokeng 19)
PRETORIA CITY 1 (Steenkamp 79).

DYNAMOS 0
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 1 (Goliath 56).

SANTOS 0
CAPE TOWN SPURS 2 (Jantjies 30, M.Rodrigues 86).

WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Hannon)
JOMO COSMOS 0.

WEEKEND

ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Maponyane 16)
QWAQWA STARS 0.

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 4 (P.Masinga 3, Mudau pen 14)
WITBANK ACES 0.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

MIDWEEK

KAIZER CHIEFS 0
QWA QWA STARS 1 (Ngaduane 13).

WITBANK ACES 4 (Nzunalo 55, Mofokeng 59, Peer 71, Shili 85)
JOMO COSMOS 2 (Gondwe 34, Molebatsi 63).

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..Mudau (Mamelodi Sundowns).22
2 ..Seakamela (Vaal Pros).....21
3 ..Ngaduane (Qwa Qwa Stars)....18

NSL Castle League — *final*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mamelodi Sundowns	38	24	7	7	69	31	55
Moroka Swallows	38	21	10	7	44	25	52
Amazulu	38	17	14	7	43	34	48
Orlando Pirates	38	15	13	10	52	42	43
Umtata Bucks	38	15	12	11	51	43	42
Kaizer Chiefs	38	15	12	11	42	35	42
Hellenic	38	14	13	11	58	50	41
Chatsworth Ran	38	10	20	8	46	37	40
Pretoria City	38	11	17	10	39	40	39
Cape Town Spurs	38	13	11	14	43	37	37
Bloemfontein Celtic	38	13	11	14	36	45	37
Vaal Professionals	38	10	16	12	49	44	36
QwaQwa Stars	38	10	16	12	40	38	36
Witbank aces	36	13	10	13	48	49	36
D'Alberton Callies	38	14	8	16	44	48	36
Wits University	38	14	8	16	37	42	36
Dynamos	38	8	17	13	41	41	33
Jomo Cosmos	38	10	12	16	39	48	32
Lightbody's Santos	38	7	15	16	29	45	29
Welkom Eagles	38	1	6	31	23	97	8

● *Welkom Eagles, Lightbodys Santos, Jomo Cosmos and Dynamos relegated (subject to appeals against foreign player use by other clubs). Real Rovers and Royal Tigers are promoted from the OK Second Division.*

FEW clubs in Africa have both the resources and professional commitment to set standards for the continent's football. This is one of the pressing needs of the sport as Africa seeks to catch up with counterparts at club level elsewhere.

CLUB FOCUS

AFRICA SPORTS

Chasing hard

Safe hands . . . colourful Africa Sports goalkeeper Patrice Samba gathers the ball.

Africa Sports National of Ivory Coast are one of the few clubs thriving successfully to match the allure of the sport in Europe, where all leading Africans aim to earn their living.

The Ivorian "Aiglons", or Eagles, as they are called by their red-and-green-clad supporters, set a milestone at the start of 1993 by winning the inaugural African Super Cup.

Africa Sport, a team of internationals from four countries, beat Wydad Casablanca of Morocco in a penalty shoot-out to take the trophy in front of their home crowd in Abidjan.

They had qualified for the match by having won the African Cup-winners Cup at the end of 1992 with a 5-1 aggregate win over Vital 'O of Burundi. This was their first trophy at continental level, and reward for a progressive approach on a continent where old habits die hard.

The team, average age below 25, benefit from the patronage of Simplice Messe-Zinsou, a shipping magnate and former sports journalist who is president Felix Houphouet-Boigny's son-in-law.

His deep pockets and considerable connections, so essential in the daily grind of Africa, have transformed the team from the shadow of their great rivals, ASEC Abidjan.

They are one of the few teams in Africa with a personal fitness trainer, their own chef for away trips, and liberal use of the presidential jet.

The club also pay considerably well by African standards. Their highest-paid player, Nigerian striker Gabriel Okolosi, makes around £6,000 a month.

Africa Sport have a fine record in the Cup-winners Cup, reaching the final at their first attempt in 1980 before losing 4-1 on aggregate to TO Mazembe of Zaire.

Two years later they were eliminated in the quarter-finals by the eventual winners, Arab Contractors of Egypt, before winning at their third attempt in 1992.

Africa Sports were founded by Pascal Pailly, an Ivorian colonial administrator, on April 14, 1947, over a few beers in a bar in the Abidjan suburb of Treichville.

The club won their first domestic trophy in 1961, in the National Cup, and were champions for the first time in 1968.

Since then they have won the championship on 11 further occasions and the Cup a total of 10 times.

They also won the West African Football Union Cup in 1985, 1986, and 1991, and in 1986 they were finalists in the African Champions Cup, losing to Zamalek of Egypt on penalties.

MARK GLEESON

THE COACH

RACHID CHERADI
A former Algerian international who made his name at the end of 1992 when he steered unfancied Burundian club Vital 'O to the African Cup-winners Cup. They lost 5-1 on aggregate to African Sport, who then signed him to replace Ghanaian Ibrahim Sunday.

THE SQUAD

Ali DOUMBYA
Goalkeeper
Aged 33 (born January 6, 1961)
Sat on the bench when the Ivorians won the African Nations Cup in 1992 and is now again on the sidelines.

Obou MACAIRE
Goalkeeper
Aged 23 (born December 28, 1970)
Took over the goalkeeping slot this season and was quickly drafted into the national team.

Patrice SAMBA
Goalkeeper
Aged 22 (born March 24)
Acrobatic Congolese international who cannot play in the domestic League because of the limit of foreigners, but was signed for the Cup campaign. Has made little impact and has been unable to break into the team.

Ajibade BABALADE
Defender
Aged 21 (born March 29, 1972)
Tough-as-teak Nigerian international whose year was curtailed by a bone operation. A substitute in two of his country's World Cup qualifiers but has since lost his place in the squad.

George Lignon NAGUEU
Defender
Aged 25 (born November 11, 1968)
Exciting full-back who is a regular member of the Ivorian national team. Also won a Cup-winners Cup medal in 1992 and a Super Cup medal in 1993.

Guy HOBA
Defender
Aged 20 (born December 29, 1973)
Full-back who already has been called up to the national squad after one full season with Africa Sport.

Arsene HOBOU
Defender
Aged 26 (born January 5, 1968)
After full international caps has had to battle with injury and youthful opposition for his place in the team.

Alassane QUATTARA
Defender
Aged 25 (born June 17, 1968)
Tall central defender who got his first cap against Botswana last January but then lost his place after a disastrous showing against Jomo Cosmos.

Taofik MALIK
Midfielder
Aged 26 (born January 17, 1968)
Stylish and elegant, signed from Shooting Stars of Nigeria at the start of 1993. Capped by his country but now seemingly out of their plans.

Serge-Alain MAGUY
Midfielder
Aged 23 (born October 20, 1970)
Pint-sized captain of club and country who could still make the transition to professional football in Europe. Played in the 1992 Nations Cup Final against Ghana.

Thompson OLIHA
Midfielder
Aged 25 (born October 4, 1968)
Engine room and one of the finest players in Africa not yet snapped up by a European team. Signed from Nigeria's champions, Iwuanyanwu Nationale.

Yacouba KOMARA
Midfielder
Aged 22 (born January 8, 1971)
Won the first of his four caps against Botswana in a World Cup qualifier. Plays out wide but seldom ventures forward.

Ibrahim KONE
Midfielder
Aged 24 (born July 26, 1969)
Quiet, unspectacular but efficient worker signed from provincial club SC Gagnoa after winning his first cap in a friendly against Egypt in 1992.

Sylvain MOUKASSA
Midfielder.
Aged 23 (born April 21, 1970)
Congolese international with the same restrictions as his compatriot, Samba. Diminutive but big in heart and probably the best current player from his country.

Gabriel OKOLOSI
Forward
Aged 24 (born July 8, 1969)
Flamboyant Nigerian striker (now with Ivorian nationality) whose off-the-field antics are closely watched by the magazines. Top scorer in Africain club competitions in 1992, lost his place in 1993.

Eugene BEUGRE YAGO
Forward
Aged 24 (born November 15, 1969)
Tall and gangly but strong runner on the wing who was a member of the 1992 African Nations Cup squad.

James SMITH
Forward
Aged 25 (born September 3, 1968)
Mercurial winger who plays a super-sub role in the team. Hails from Ghana but has now taken out Ivorian nationality.

Ahmed QUATTARA
Forward
Aged 26 (born December 15, 1967)
Top scorer in 1993 and narrowly missed a move to Swiss club Neuchatel Xamax through contract problems. Has taken over from Okolosi as central striker.

Howe's that! Don gives a world class performance

BRILLIANT . . . ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC . . . MARVELLOUS . . . GENIUS AT WORK . . . these were just some of the reactions from over 100 coaches who attended the Association's second coaching session at Loughton in Essex.

Despite freezing temperatures the coaches who took part or observed were fascinated by the top quality demonstrations given by three masters of their craft.

During the morning session, former England Youth coach John Cartwright worked with a group on the topics of how a team can "master the ball" between them.

John gave his usual impressive performance with advanced points as well as some simple, but effective, advice for teaching the game at the more domestic level.

After lunch Don Howe took centre stage. Following a kaleidoscope of practices designed as warming-up exercises which develop good habits, he put on a session designed to exploit a defence playing with three centre-backs.

This session showed a genius at work. The practice developed from a simple, clear beginning with Don adding further options until the full picture was achieved.

The audience of coaches, drawn from all levels of soccer, were unamimous that here was a world class coach in action, and "nothing like his image in the newspapers" was a typical comment.

Last to perform was Mike Kelly, assistant manager of the Swiss team, newly qualified for the US World Cup finals.

Mike drew gasps from the watching crowd as he peppered the goalkeeper with a barrage of accurate services that fully tested his capabilities. His display was comprehensive, professional and above all expert. There can be few coaches capable of working an audience's attention in such cold conditions, but Mike's performance was first class.

Asked of their own opinion of the day the three coaches were very generous in their praise. John Cartwright and Don Howe were impressed with the organisation and professionalism of the AFCT organisation. Well done to everyone who helped in the planning of the day, including Keith Bailey from Roding Valley High School.

But the most rewarding comment came perhaps from Mike Kelly, who said: "The attendance today and the enthusiasm of the coaches reminds me of the days 20 years ago when there was a real buzz and excitement about coaching. I thought we had lost that — but after today I can see that AFCT is changing things for the better!"

The AFCT magazine, appropriately called *Catalyst,* will have been received by members just before Christmas along with the AFCT Christmas membership cards. The magazine has been produced by Rob Littleford and Graham Morgan of *adidas*.

Peter Stewart commented: "A first class job. The magazine captures the spirit of the AFCT. Members will definitely benefit from having their own magazine."

The next session for the AFCT is being planned and will be made from a selection of offers from Norwich City, Scunthorpe United, Crewe Alexandra and Don Howe's Newbury Town.

The PFA, who have been monitoring the progress of AFCT, have been invited to appoint a representative of the committee and either Micky Burns or Paul Power will attend the next committee meeting.

FOOTBALL COACHES & TEACHERS
adidas
ASSOCIATION

AFCT now has representation from all levels of soccer coaching who have shown an interest in being involved.

The New Year Resolution for the Association is to push members from 400 up past the 1,000 mark. Through our members in the US, in particular Dean Conway in Massachusets, Don Howe has been invited to hold coaching sessions in Boston and the North American Coaches Convention at Santa Clara, California in January.

A delegation from AFCT (Rob Litleford, Graham Morgan and Don Howe) will be attending the North American Soccer Coaches Convention.

From a small start the NASAA now hosts a coaches convention that attracted over 5,000 delegates last year. It is to be hoped that we can learn from our American friends how to develop and popularise our Association to the benefit of members and the game at large.

May we wish all our members a successful 1994. See you at the next session.

HOW TO JOIN THE AFCT

- **12-month membership.**
- **4 quarterly issues of the Association of Football Coaches and Teachers Coaching Magazine.**
- **An adidas drill tracksuit (with AFCT badge).**
- **Special offers, to AFCT members only, of adidas products at special prices (details in magazine).**
- **Discount on all AFCT sessions and seminars for AFCT members.**
- **Cost £35.**

Please complete and return the form:

NAME.....

AGE.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

TEL NO.....

Chest Size.....Waist Size.....Shoe Size.....

CURRENT INVOLVEMENT IN FOOTBALL.....

.....

Please return with SAE to: **Mr Rob Littleford, Administrator, AFCT, Penmore House, Hasland Road, Hasland, Chesterfield, S41 OSJ.**

Make cheques payable to AFCT

WorldCupUSA94 FINAL RESULTS

1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING GROUPS

EUROPE

38 entries (39 members, Liechtenstein withdrew)

● *Top two teams in each Group qualify for finals (Germany qualify as holders).*

GROUP 1

16.08.92 Estonia v Switzerland 0-6
09.09.92 Switzerland v Scotland 3-1
14.10.92 Italy v Switzerland 2-2
14.10.92 Scotland v Portugal 0-0
25.10.92 Malta v Estonia 0-0
18.11.92 Scotland v Italy 0-0
18.11.92 Switzerland v Malta 3-0
19.12.92 Malta v Italy 1-2
24.01.93 Malta v Portugal 0-1
17.02.93 Scotland v Malta 3-0
24.02.93 Portugal v Italy 1-3
24.03.93 Italy v Malta 6-1
31.03.93 Switzerland v Portugal 1-1
14.04.93 Italy v Estonia 2-0
17.04.93 Malta v Switzerland 0-2
28.04.93 Portugal v Scotland 5-0
01.05.93 Switzerland v Italy 1-0
12.05.93 Estonia v Malta 0-1
19.05.93 Estonia v Scotland 0-3
02.06.93 Scotland v Estonia 3-1
19.06.93 Portugal v Malta 4-0
05.09.93 Estonia v Portugal 0-2
08.09.93 Scotland v Switzerland 1-1
22.09.93 Estonia v Italy 0-3
13.10.93 Portugal v Switzerland 1-0
13.10.93 Italy v Scotland 3-1
10.11.93 Portugal v Estonia 3-0
17.11.93 Italy v Portugal 1-0
17.11.93 Malta v Scotland 0-2
17.11.93 Switzerland v Estonia 4-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ITALY	10	7	2	1	22	7	16
SWITZERLAND	10	6	3	1	23	6	15
Portugal	10	6	2	2	18	5	14
Scotland	10	4	3	3	14	13	11
Malta	10	1	1	8	3	23	3
Estonia	10	0	1	9	1	27	1

Italy & Switzerland qualify for finals

GROUP 2

09.09.92 Norway v San Marino 10-0
23.09.92 Norway v Holland 2-1
23.09.92 Poland v Turkey 1-0
07.10.92 San Marino v Norway 0-2
14.10.92 England v Norway 1-1
14.10.92 Holland v Poland 2-2
28.10.92 Turkey v San Marino 4-1
18.11.92 England v Turkey 4-0
16.12.92 Turkey v Holland 1-3
17.02.93 England v San Marino 6-0
24.02.93 Holland v Turkey 3-1
10.03.93 San Marino v Turkey 0-0
24.03.93 Holland v San Marino 6-0
31.03.93 Turkey v England 0-2
28.04.93 England v Holland 2-2
28.04.93 Norway v Turkey 3-1
28.04.93 Poland v San Marino 1-0
19.05.93 San Marino v Poland 0-3
29.05.93 Poland v England 1-1
02.06.93 Norway v England 2-0
09.06.93 Holland v Norway 0-0
08.09.93 England v Poland 3-0
22.09.93 Norway v Poland 1-0
22.09.93 San Marino v Holland 0-7
13.10.93 Holland v England 2-0
13.10.93 Poland v Norway 0-3
27.10.93 Turkey v Poland 2-1
10.11.93 Turkey v Norway 2-1
17.11.93 San Marino v England 1-7
17.11.93 Poland v Holland 1-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORWAY	10	7	2	1	25	5	16
HOLLAND	10	6	3	1	29	9	15
England	10	5	3	2	26	9	13
Poland	10	3	2	5	10	15	8
Turkey	10	3	1	6	11	19	7
San Marino	10	0	1	9	2	46	1

Norway & Holland qualify for finals

GROUP 3

22.04.92 Spain v Albania 3-0
28.04.92 Northern Ireland v Lithuania 2-2
26.05.92 Rep. of Ireland v Albania 2-0
03.06.92 Albania v Lithuania 1-0
12.08.92 Latvia v Lithuania 1-2
26.08.92 Latvia v Denmark 0-0
09.09.92 Rep. of Ireland v Latvia 4-0
09.09.92 Northern Ireland v Albania 3-0
23.09.92 Latvia v Spain 0-0
23.09.92 Lithuania v Denmark 0-0
14.10.92 Denmark v Rep. of Ireland 0-0
14.10.92 Northern Ireland v Spain 0-0
28.10.92 Lithuania v Latvia 1-1
11.11.92 Albania v Latvia 1-1
18.11.92 Northern Ireland v Denmark 0-1
18.11.92 Spain v Rep. of Ireland 0-0
16.12.92 Spain v Latvia 5-0
17.02.93 Albania v Northern Ireland 1-2
24.02.93 Spain v Lithuania 5-0
31.03.93 Denmark v Spain 1-0
31.03.93 Rep. of Ireland v N. Ireland 3-0
14.04.93 Denmark v Latvia 2-0
14.04.93 Lithuania v Albania 3-1
28.04.93 Rep. of Ireland v Denmark 1-1
28.04.93 Spain v Northern Ireland 3-1
15.05.93 Latvia v Albania 0-0
25.05.93 Lithuania v Northern Ireland 0-1
26.05.93 Albania v Rep. of Ireland 1-2
02.06.93 Denmark v Albania 4-0
02.06.93 Latvia v Northern Ireland 1-2
02.06.93 Lithuania v Spain 0-2
09.06.93 Latvia v Rep. of Ireland 0-2
16.06.93 Lithuania v Rep. of Ireland 0-1
25.08.93 Denmark v Lithuania 4-0
08.09.93 Albania v Denmark 0-1
08.09.93 Rep. of Ireland v Lithuania 2-0
08.09.93 Northern Ireland v Latvia 2-0
22.09.93 Albania v Spain 1-5
13.10.93 Denmark v Northern Ireland 1-0
13.10.93 Rep. of Ireland v Spain 1-3
17.11.93 N. Ireland v Rep. of Ireland 1-1
17.11.93 Spain v Denmark 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SPAIN	12	8	3	1	27	4	19
REP IRELAND	12	7	4	1	19	6	18
Denmark	12	7	4	1	15	2	18
N. Ireland	12	5	3	4	14	13	13
Lithuania	12	2	3	7	8	21	7
Latvia	12	0	5	7	4	21	5
Albania	12	1	2	9	6	26	4

Spain & Rep of Ireland qualify for finals

GROUP 4

22.04.92 Belgium v Cyprus 1-0
06.05.92 Romania v Faroe Islands 7-0
20.05.92 Romania v Wales 5-1
03.06.92 Faroe Islands v Belgium 0-3
18.06.92 Faroe Islands v Cyprus 0-2
02.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Belgium 1-2
09.09.92 Wales v Faroe Islands 6-0
23.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands ..4-0
14.10.92 Belgium v Romania 1-0
14.10.92 Cyprus v Wales 0-1
14.11.92 Romania v Czechoslovakia 1-1
18.11.92 Belgium v Wales 2-0
29.11.92 Cyprus v Romania 1-4
13.02.93 Cyprus v Belgium 0-3
24.03.93 Cyprus v Czechoslovakia 1-1
31.03.93 Wales v Belgium 2-0
14.04.93 Romania v Cyprus 2-1
25.04.93 Cyprus v Faroe Islands 3-1
28.04.93 Czechoslovakia v Wales 1-1
22.05.93 Belgium v Faroe Islands 3-0
02.06.93 Czechoslovakia v Romania 5-2
06.06.93 Faroe Islands v Wales 0-3
16.06.93 Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia ..0-3
08.09.93 Wales v Czechoslovakia 2-2
08.09.93 Faroe Islands v Romania 0-4
13.10.93 Romania v Belgium 2-1
13.10.93 Wales v Cyprus 2-0
27.10.93 Czechoslovakia v Cyprus 3-0
17.11.93 Wales v Romania 1-2
17.11.93 Belgium v Czechoslovakia 0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ROMANIA	10	7	1	2	29	12	15
BELGIUM	10	7	1	2	16	5	15
Czechoslovakia	10	4	5	1	21	9	13
Wales	10	5	2	3	19	12	12
Cyprus	10	2	1	7	8	18	5
Faroe Islands	10	0	0	10	1	38	0

Romania & Belgium qualify for finals

GROUP 5

13.05.92 Greece v Iceland 1-0
03.06.92 Hungary v Iceland 1-2
09.09.92 Luxembourg v Hungary 0-3
07.10.92 Iceland v Greece 0-1
14.10.92 Russia v Iceland 1-0
28.10.92 Russia v Luxembourg 2-0
11.11.92 Greece v Hungary 0-0
17.02.93 Greece v Luxembourg 2-0
31.03.93 Hungary v Greece 0-1
14.04.93 Luxembourg v Russia 0-4
28.04.93 Russia v Hungary 3-0
20.05.93 Luxembourg v Iceland 1-1
23.05.93 Russia v Greece 1-1
02.06.93 Iceland v Russia 1-1
16.06.93 Iceland v Hungary 2-0
08.09.93 Hungary v Russia 1-3
08.09.93 Iceland v Luxembourg 1-0
12.10.93 Luxembourg v Greece 1-3
27.10.93 Hungary v Luxembourg 1-0
17.11.93 Greece v Russia 1-0
★ *Yugoslavia excluded due to UN sanctions.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GREECE	8	6	2	0	10	2	14
RUSSIA	8	5	2	1	15	4	12
Iceland	8	3	2	3	7	6	8
Hungary	8	2	1	5	6	11	5
Luxembourg	8	0	1	7	2	17	1

Russia & Greece qualify for finals

GROUP 6

14.05.92 Finland v Bulgaria 0-3
09.09.92 Bulgaria v France 2-0
09.09.92 Finland v Sweden 0-1
07.10.92 Sweden v Bulgaria 2-0
14.10.92 France v Austria 2-0
28.10.92 Austria v Israel 5-2
11.11.92 Israel v Sweden 1-3
14.11.92 France v Finland 2-1
02.12.92 Israel v Bulgaria 0-2
17.02.93 Israel v France 0-4
27.03.93 Austria v France 0-1
14.04.93 Austria v Bulgaria 3-1
28.04.93 France v Sweden 2-1
28.04.93 Bulgaria v Finland 2-0
12.05.93 Bulgaria v Israel 2-2
13.05.93 Finland v Austria 3-1
19.05.93 Sweden v Austria 1-0
02.06.93 Sweden v Israel 5-0
16.06.93 Finland v Israel 0-0
22.08.93 Sweden v France 1-1
25.08.93 Austria v Finland 3-0
08.09.93 Finland v France 0-2
08.09.93 Bulgaria v Sweden 1-1
13.10.93 France v Israel 2-3
13.10.93 Bulgaria v Austria 4-1
13.10.93 Sweden v Finland 3-2
27.10.93 Israel v Austria 1-1
10.11.93 Austria v Sweden 1-1
10.11.93 Israel v Finland 1-3
17.11.93 France v Bulgaria 1-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SWEDEN	10	6	3	1	19	8	15
BULGARIA	10	6	2	2	19	10	14
France	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
Austria	10	3	2	5	15	16	8
Finland	10	2	1	7	9	18	5
Israel	10	1	3	6	10	27	5

Sweden & Bulgaria qualify for finals

AFRICA

37 entries (48 members)

● *Group winners qualify for Second Round of 3 mini leagues of 3 teams each. Winners qualify for finals.*

First Round
GROUP A

09.10.92 Algeria v Burundi 3-1
25.10.92 Burundi v Ghana 1-0
20.12.92 Ghana v Algeria 2-0
17.01.93 Burundi v Algeria 0-0
31.01.93 Ghana v Burundi 1-0
26.02.93 Algeria v Ghana 2-1
★ *Uganda withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ALGERIA	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
Ghana	4	2	0	2	4	3	4
Burundi	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

GROUP B

18.10.92 Cameroon v Swaziland 5-0
25.10.92 Swaziland v Zaire 1-0
10.01.93 Zaire v Cameroon 1-2
17.01.93 Swaziland v Cameroon 0-0
29.02.93 Cameroon v Zaire 0-0
★ *Liberia withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CAMEROON	4	2	2	0	7	1	6
Swaziland	3	1	1	1	1	5	3
Zaire	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

Not played: *Zaire v Swaziland*

GROUP C

11.10.92 Egypt v Angola 1-0
11.10.92 Zimbabwe v Togo 1-0
25.10.92 Togo v Egypt 1-4
20.12.92 Zimbabwe v Egypt 2-1
10.01.93 Angola v Zimbabwe 1-1
17.01.93 Togo v Zimbabwe 1-2
18.01.93 Angola v Egypt 0-0
31.01.93 Egypt v Togo 3-0
31.01.93 Zimbabwe v Angola 2-1
28.02.93 Egypt v Zimbabwe 2-1
Result declared void after protest
28.02.93 Togo v Angola 0-1
15.04.93 Egypt v Zimbabwe 0-0
Replay *(in Lyons)*
★ *Sierra Leone withdrew and were replaced by Togo.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZIMBABWE	6	4	2	0	8	4	10
Egypt	6	3	2	1	9	3	8
Angola	5	1	2	2	3	4	4
Togo	5	0	0	5	2	11	0

Not played: *Angola v Togo*

GROUP D

10.10.92 Nigeria v South Africa 4-0
25.10.92 South Africa v Congo 1-0
20.12.92 Congo v Nigeria 0-1
17.01.93 South Africa v Nigeria 0-0
31.01.93 Congo v South Africa 0-1
27.02.93 Nigeria v Congo 2-0
★ *Sao Tome e Principe withdrew, Libya withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	4	3	1	0	7	0	7
South Africa	4	2	1	1	2	4	5
Congo	4	0	0	4	0	5	0

GROUP E

10.10.92 Ivory Coast v Botswana 6-0
25.10.92 Niger v Ivory Coast 0-0
20.12.92 Botswana v Niger 0-1
17.01.93 Botswana v Ivory Coast 0-0
31.01.93 Ivory Coast v Niger 1-0
28.02.93 Niger v Botswana 2-1
★ *Sudan withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IVORY COAST	4	2	2	0	7	0	6
Niger	4	2	1	1	3	2	5
Botswana	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

GROUP F

11.10.92 Morocco v Ethiopia 5-0
11.10.92 Tunisia v Benin 5-1
25.10.92 Ethiopia v Tunisia 0-0
25.10.92 Benin v Morocco 0-1
20.12.92 Tunisia v Morocco 1-1
20.12.92 Ethiopia v Benin 3-1
17.01.93 Ethiopia v Morocco 0-1
17.01.93 Benin v Tunisia 0-5
31.01.93 Tunisia v Ethiopia 3-0
31.01.93 Morocco v Benin 5-0
28.02.93 Benin v Ethiopia 1-0
28.02.93 Morocco v Tunisia 0-0
★ *Malawi withdrew, Benin replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOROCCO	6	4	2	0	13	1	10
Tunisia	6	3	3	0	14	2	9
Ethiopia	6	1	1	4	3	11	3
Benin	6	1	0	5	3	19	2

GROUP G

11.10.92 Gabon v Mozambique 3-1
25.10.92 Mozambique v Senegal 0-1
19.12.92 Gabon v Senegal 3-2
17.02.93 Mozambique v Gabon 1-1
30.01.93 Senegal v Mozambique 6-1
27.02.93 Senegal v Gabon 1-0
★ *Mauritania withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SENEGAL	4	3	0	1	10	4	6
Gabon	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Mozambique	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

GROUP H

11.01.92 Madagascar v Namibia 3-0
25.10.92 Namibia v Zambia 0-4
20.12.92 Madagascar v Zambia 2-0
17.01.93 Namibia v Madagascar 0-1
30.01.93 Zambia v Namibia 4-0
27.02.93 Zambia v Madagascar 3-1
★ *Burkina Faso withdrew and were replaced by Namibia. Tanzania also withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZAMBIA	4	3	0	1	11	3	6
Madagascar	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Namibia	4	0	0	4	0	12	0

GROUP I

20.12.92 Guinea v Kenya 4-0
27.02.93 Kenya v Guinea 2-0
★ *Gambia & Mali withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GUINEA	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Kenya	2	1	0	1	2	4	2

Second Round
GROUP A

16.04.93 Algeria v Ivory Coast 1-1
02.05.93 Ivory Coast v Nigeria 2-1
03.07.93 Nigeria v Algeria 4-1
18.07.93 Ivory Coast v Algeria 1-0
25.09.93 Nigeria v Ivory Coast 4-1
08.10.93 Algeria v Nigeria 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	4	2	1	1	10	5	5
Ivory Coast	4	2	1	1	5	6	5
Algeria	4	0	2	2	3	7	2

Nigeria qualify for finals

GROUP B

18.04.93 Morocco v Senegal 1-0
04.07.93 Zambia v Morocco 2-1
17.07.93 Senegal v Morocco 1-3
07.08.93 Senegal v Zambia 0-0
26.09.93 Zambia v Senegal 4-0
10.10.93 Morocco v Zambia 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOROCCO	4	3	0	1	6	3	6
Zambia	4	2	1	1	6	2	5
Senegal	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

Morocco qualify for finals

GROUP C

18.04.93 Cameroon v Guinea 3-1
02.05.93 Guinea v Zimbabwe 3-0
04.07.93 Zimbabwe v Cameroon 1-0
18.07.93 Guinea v Cameroon 0-1
26.09.93 Zimbabwe v Guinea 1-0
10.10.93 Cameroon v Zimbabwe 3-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CAMEROON	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Zimbabwe	4	2	0	2	3	6	4
Guinea	4	1	0	3	4	5	2

Cameroon qualify for finals

CONCACAF

23 entries (27 members, Cuba withdrew)

● *Top two in Group A play (home & away) against top two in Group B. Winning nation qualifies for finals. Runners-up play Oceania winners for right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals (United States qualify as hosts).*

Pre-preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

21.03.92 Dominican Rep. v P. Rico 1-2
22.03.92 St Lucia v St Vincent 1-0
29.03.92 P. Rico v Dominican Rep. 1-1
29.03.92 St Vincent v St Lucia 3-1

Preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

26.04.92 Bermuda v Haiti 1-0
25.05.92 Jamaica v Puerto Rico 2-1
25.05.92 Haiti v Bermuda 2-1
30.05.92 Puerto Rico v Jamaica 0-1
St Vincent v Cuba★
★ *Cuba withdrew.*
St Vincent, Bermuda & Jamaica qualify for 1st md

CARIBBEAN REGION — SOUTH

19.04.92 Dutch Antilles v Antigua 1-1
26.04.92 Antigua v Dutch Antilles 3-0
26.04.92 Guyana v Surinam 1-2
24.05.92 Barbados v Trin. & Tobago 1-2
25.05.92 Surinam v Guyana 1-1
31.05.92 Trin. & Tobago v Barbados 3-0
Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua and Surinam qualify for 1st md

First Round
CENTRAL REGION

19.07.92 Guatemala v Honduras 0-0
19.07.92 Nicaragua v El Salvador 0-5
23.07.92 El Salvador v Nicaragua 5-1
26.07.92 Honduras v Guatemala 2-0
16.08.92 Panama v Costa Rica 1-0
23.08.92 Costa Rica v Panama 5-1
El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica qualify for 2nd rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION

14.06.92 Antigua v Bermuda 0-3
05.07.92 Trinidad & Tobago v Jamaica ..1-2
04.07.92 Bermuda v Antigua 2-1
02.08.92 Surinam v St Vincent 0-0
16.08.92 Jamaica v Trinidad & Tobago ..1-1
30.08.92 St Vincent v Surinam 2-1
Bermuda, Jamaica and St Vincent qualify for 2nd rnd

Second Round
GROUP A

08.11.92 Costa Rica v Honduras 2-3
08.11.92 St Vincent v Mexico 0-4
15.11.92 Mexico v Honduras 2-0
15.11.92 St Vincent v Costa Rica 0-1
22.11.92 Mexico v Costa Rica 4-0
22.11.92 St Vincent v Honduras 0-4
28.11.92 Honduras v St Vincent 4-0
29.11.92 Costa Rica v Mexico 2-0
05.12.92 Honduras v Costa Rica 2-1
06.12.92 Mexico v St Vincent 11-0
13.12.92 Costa Rica v St Vincent 5-0
13.12.92 Honduras v Mexico 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	4	1	1	22	3	9
HONDURAS	6	4	1	1	14	6	9
Costa Rica	6	3	0	3	11	9	6
St. Vincent	6	0	0	6	0	29	0

Mexico & Honduras qualify for final rnd

GROUP B

18.10.92 Jamaica v Canada 1-1
18.10.92 Bermuda v El Salvador 1-0
25.10.92 El Salvador v Canada 1-1
25.10.92 Bermuda v Jamaica 1-1
01.11.92 Canada v Jamaica 1-0
01.11.92 El Salvador v Bermuda 4-1
08.11.92 Canada v El Salvador 2-3
08.11.92 Jamaica v Bermuda 3-2
15.11.92 Canada v Bermuda 4-2
22.11.92 Jamaica v El Salvador 0-2
06.12.92 Bermuda v Canada 0-0
06.12.92 El Salvador v Jamaica 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EL SALVADOR	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
CANADA	6	2	3	1	9	7	7
Jamaica	6	1	2	3	6	9	4
Bermuda	6	1	2	3	7	12	4

El Salvador & Canada qualify for final rnd

Final Round

04.04.93 El Salvador v Mexico 2-1
04.04.93 Honduras v Canada 2-2
11.04.93 Mexico v Honduras 3-0
11.04.93 Canada v El Salvador 2-0
18.04.93 Canada v Honduras 3-1
18.04.93 Mexico v El Salvador 3-1
25.04.93 Mexico v Canada 4-0
25.04.93 Honduras v El Salvador 2-0
02.05.93 Honduras v Mexico 1-4
02.05.93 El Salvador v Canada 1-2
09.05.93 Canada v Mexico 1-2
09.05.93 El Salvador v Honduras 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	5	0	1	17	5	10
Canada	6	3	1	2	10	10	7
El Salvador	6	2	0	4	6	11	4
Honduras	6	1	1	4	7	14	3

Mexico qualify for finals, Canada qualify for play-off with Australia.

Play-off
1st leg

31.07.93 Canada v Australia 2-1
2nd leg
15.08.93 Australia v Canada 2-1
Australia won 4-1 on pens & qualify for play-off with Argentina, see South America for details.

SOUTH AMERICA

10 entries (10 members, Chile suspended)

● *Winners of Group A & winners & runners-up in Group B qualify for finals. Group A runners-up play winners of CONCACAF/Oceania play-off for a place in the finals.*

GROUP A

01.08.93 Colombia v Paraguay 0-0
01.08.93 Peru v Argentina 0-1
08.08.93 Paraguay v Argentina 1-3
08.08.93 Peru v Colombia 0-1
15.08.93 Colombia v Argentina 2-1
15.08.93 Paraguay v Peru 2-1
22.08.93 Argentina v Peru 2-1
22.08.93 Paraguay v Colombia 1-1
29.08.93 Argentina v Paraguay 0-0
29.08.93 Colombia v Peru 4-0
05.09.93 Argentina v Colombia 0-5
05.09.93 Peru v Paraguay 2-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
COLOMBIA	6	4	2	0	13	2	10
Argentina	6	3	1	2	7	9	7
Paraguay	6	1	4	1	6	7	6
Peru	6	0	1	5	4	12	1

Colombia qualify for finals, Argentina qualify for play-off with Australia.

GROUP B

18.07.93 Ecuador v Brazil 0-0
18.07.93 Venezuela v Bolivia 1-7
25.07.93 Bolivia v Brazil 2-0
25.07.93 Venezuela v Uruguay 0-1
01.08.93 Uruguay v Ecuador 0-0
01.08.93 Venezuela v Brazil 1-5
08.08.93 Bolivia v Uruguay 3-1
08.08.93 Ecuador v Venezuela 5-0
15.08.93 Bolivia v Ecuador 1-0
15.08.93 Uruguay v Brazil 1-1
22.08.93 Bolivia v Venezuela 7-0
22.08.93 Brazil v Ecuador 2-0
29.08.93 Brazil v Bolivia 6-0
29.08.93 Uruguay v Venezuela 4-0
05.09.93 Brazil v Venezuela 4-0
05.09.93 Ecuador v Uruguay 0-1
12.09.93 Uruguay v Bolivia 2-1
12.09.93 Venezuela v Ecuador 2-1
19.09.93 Brazil v Uruguay 2-0
19.09.93 Ecuador v Bolivia 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRAZIL	8	5	2	1	20	4	12
BOLIVIA	8	5	1	2	22	11	11
Uruguay	8	4	2	2	10	7	10
Ecuador	8	1	3	4	7	7	5
Venezuela	8	1	0	7	4	34	2

Brazil and Bolivia qualify for finals.

Play-off
1st leg

31.10.93 Australia v Argentina 1-1
2nd leg
17.11.93 Argentina v Australia 1-0
Argentina won 2-1 on agg & qualify for finals

OCEANIA

7 entries (8 members, Western Samoa withdrew)

● *The two Group winners play (home & away) with the winners qualifying to meet the CONCACAF runners-up. The winners of that match will meet the South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.*

Saudi Arabia's Hamzah Saleh battles two Iraqi defenders during the 1-1 draw in Doha, Qatar.

GROUP 1

11.07.92 Solomon Islands v Tahiti 1-1
04.09.92 Solomon Islands v Australia 1-2
11.09.92 Tahiti v Australia 0-3
20.09.92 Australia v Tahiti 2-0
25.09.92 Australia v Solomon Islands 6-1
09.10.92 Tahiti v Solomon Islands 4-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AUSTRALIA	4	4	0	0	13	2	8
Tahiti	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Solomon Islands	4	0	1	3	5	13	1

Australia qualify for final play-off

GROUP 2

07.06.92 New Zealand v Fiji 3-0
27.06.92 Vanuatu v New Zealand 1-4
01.07.92 New Zealand v Vanuatu 8-0
12.09.92 Fiji v Vanuatu 3-0
19.09.92 Fiji v New Zealand 0-0
26.09.92 Vanuatu v Fiji 0-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NEW ZEALAND	4	3	1	0	15	1	7
Fiji	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Vanuatu	4	0	0	4	1	18	0

New Zealand qualify for final play-off

Play-off
1st leg

30.05.93 New Zealand v Australia 0-1
2nd leg
06.06.93 Australia v New Zealand 3-0
Australia won 4-0 on agg and meet Canada in a play-off . See CONCACAF section for details.

ASIA

29 entries (36 members)

● *The six Group winners qualify for Second Round, to be played as (home & away) mini-league. Winners & runners-up qualify for finals.*

First Round
GROUP A

22.05.93 Jordan v Yemen ▲ 1-1
22.05.93 Pakistan v China ▲ 0-5
24.05.93 Jordan v Iraq ▲ 1-1
24.05.93 Yemen v Pakistan ▲ 5-1
26.05.93 Jordan v China ▲ 0-3
26.05.93 Yemen v Iraq ▲ 1-6
28.05.93 Pakistan v Iraq ▲ 0-8
28.05.93 Yemen v China ▲ 1-0
30.05.93 Jordan v Pakistan ▲ 3-1
30.05.93 Iraq v China ▲ 1-0
12.06.93 Yemen v Jordan ▼ 1-1
12.06.93 China v Pakistan ▼ 3-0
14.06.93 Iraq v Jordan ▼ 4-0
14.06.93 Pakistan v Yemen ▼ 0-3
16.06.93 China v Jordan ▼ 4-1
16.06.93 Iraq v Yemen ▼ 3-0
18.06.93 Iraq v Pakistan ▼ 4-0
18.06.93 China v Yemen ▼ 1-0
20.06.93 Pakistan v Jordan ▼ 0-5
20.06.93 China v Iraq ▼ 2-1
▲ in Amman, Jordan
▼ in Beijing, China

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IRAQ	8	6	1	1	28	4	13
China	8	6	0	2	18	4	12
Yemen	8	3	2	3	12	13	8
Jordan	8	2	3	3	12	15	7
Pakistan	8	0	0	8	2	36	0

GROUP B

23.06.93 Iran v Oman ▲ 0-0
23.06.93 Taiwan v Syria ▲ 0-2
25.06.93 Oman v Syria ▲ 0-0
25.06.93 Iran v Taiwan ▲ 6-0
27.06.93 Oman v Taiwan ▲ 2-1
27.06.93 Iran v Syria ▲ 1-1
02.07.93 Oman v Iran ▼ 0-1
02.07.93 Syria v Taiwan ▼ 8-1
04.07.93 Syria v Oman ▼ 2-1
04.07.93 Taiwan v Iran ▼ 0-6
06.07.93 Taiwan v Oman ▼ 1-7
06.07.93 Syria v Iran ▼ 1-1
▲ in Tehran, Iran
▼ in Damascus, Syria
★ *Myanmar (formerly Burma) withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IRAN	6	3	3	0	15	2	9
Syria	6	3	3	0	14	4	9
Oman	6	2	2	2	10	5	6
Taiwan	6	0	0	6	3	31	0

GROUP C

09.04.93 Qatar v Indonesia ▲ 3-1
09.04.93 North Korea v Vietnam ▲ 3-0
11.04.93 North Korea v Singapore ▲ 2-1
11.04.93 Qatar v Vietnam ▲ 4-0
13.04.93 North Korea v Indonesia ▲ 4-0
13.04.93 Vietnam v Singapore ▲ 2-3
16.04.93 Qatar v Singapore ▲ 4-1
16.04.93 Vietnam v Indonesia ▲ 1-0
18.04.93 Indonesia v Singapore ▲ 0-2

RESULTS

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

WEEKEND

VfB MODLING 0
VORWARTS 5

RAPID 0
SPORTCLUB 0

SALZBURG 0
INNSBRUCK 0

ST POLTEN 2
AUSTRIA WIEN 3

ADMIRA WACKER 1
STURM GRAZ 1

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

WEEKEND

SERAING 1 (Edmilsson 63)
CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Van der Heyden 40). Att: 18,000.

GENT 1 (Vanderberg 69)
LOMMEL 0. Att: 7,000.

ANTWERP 1 (Severeyns 21)
STANDARD 1 (Asselman 55). Att: 9,000.

LIEGE 0
EKEREN 0. Att: 7,000.

GENK 2 (Claessens 7, Busuttil 70)
BEVEREN 0. Att: 8,000.

RWDM 0
MECHELEN 2 (Leen 2, De Boeck 55). Att: 6,000.

CERCLE BRUGES 4 (Weber 7, 66, 82, 87)
LIERSE 2 (Rekdal 62 pen, 86). Att: 6,500.

WAREGEM 2 (Khristien 42, 68)
CHARLEROI 1 (Malbasa 77 pen). Att: 6,500.

OOSTENDE 1 (Renty 84)
ANDERLECHT 3 (Versavel 32, Bosman 42, Haagdoren 57). Att: 8,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

WEEKEND

ANDERLECHT 2 (Walem 21, Boffin 65)
GENT 1 (Booy 26). Att: 14,000.

BEVEREN 0
RWDM 0. Att: 3,000.

CHARLEROI 6 (Misse-Misse 6, Malbasa 16, Balogh 29, Brogno 36, Moury 47, Casto 82)
LIEGE 4 (De Sart 31, Sebwe 48, 78, 87). Att: 9,000.

STANDARD 2 (Wilmots 44, Lashaf 69)
WAREGEM 0. Att: 7,000.

LIERSE 1 (Pauwels 62)
ANTWERP 1 (Severeyns 53). Att: 6,000.

LOMMEL 5 (Peeters 20, Mukanya 30, Van Geneugden 56, Vandervee 59, Berghuis 70)
CERCLE BRUGES 1 (Weber 72). Att: 5,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 2 (Van der Heyden 9, 17)
GENK 1 (Goots 21). Att: 7,000.

EKEREN 1 (Verstraeten 5)
SERAING 2 (Teppers 17, Foguenne 28). Att: 3,000.

OOSTENDE 0
MECHELEN 0. Att: 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

WEEKEND

LIEGE 0
STANDARD 2 (Cruz pen 44, Wilmots 80). Att: 8,000.

GENT 1 (Viscaaf 71)
OOSTENDE 2 (Swietek 56, 57). Att: 7,500.

ANTWERP 4 (Lehnhoff 1, Severeyns 42, 58, Segers48)
LOMMEL 0. Att: 4,000.

GENK 1 (Katana pen 25)
EKEREN 3 (Tahamata 19, 62, Dheedene 83). Att: 3,000.

RWDM 0
CLUB BRUGGE 0. Att: 8,000.

MECHELEN 1 (Sanders 63)
BEVEREN 0. Att: 6,500.

CERCLE BRUGES 1 (Munteanu 21)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Haagdoren 62). Att: 6,000.

WAREGEM 0
LIERSE 1 (Rekdal 37). Att: 4,500.

SERAING 2 (Edmilson pen 78, Lukaku 88)
CHARLEROI 2 (Silvagni 60, Misse-Misse 71). Att: 11,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

WEEKEND

CERCLE BRUGES 2 (Weber 3, 82)
GENT 2 (Verdegen 28, Booy 31). Att: 4,000.

GENK 0
CHARLEROI 4 (Malbasa 6, 81, 85, Misse-Misse 69). Att: 5,200.

SERAING 2 (Edhilson 7, Lukaku 78)
STANDARD 2 (Wilmots 11, Asselman 27). Att: 1,100.

LIEGE 3 (Milosevic 28,Godfroid 61, Goossen 75 og)
LIERSE 0. Att: 6,000.

WAREGEM 0
LOMMEL 0. Att: 3,500.

ANTWERP 0
ANDERLECHT 0. Att: 13,000.

MECHELEN 1 (Sanders 26)
CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Borkelmans 75). Att: 2,000.

RWDM 1 (Thairet 14)
EKEREN 3 (Bula 78, Deheende 80, Tahamata 87). Att: 5,000.

BEVEREN 3 (Colling 6, Van Han 33, Udovic 85)
OOSTENDE 3 (Renty 4, Keshinro 34, Swietek 90). Att: 4,200.

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

WEEKEND

WILLEM II 1 (Sylla 70)
HEERENVEEN 1 (Roelfsen 77). Att: 5,750.

AJAX 4 (Litmanen 50, 86, Overmars 56, R. De Boer 69)
GA EAGLES 0. Att: 19,000.

RODA 0
VVV 0. Att: 3,400.

UTRECHT 1 (De Koch 14)
TWENTE 0. Att: 4,000.

PSV 1 (Taument 19 og)
FEYENOORD 3 (Van der Gaay 25, Blinker 85, Taument 90). Att: 25,000.

CAMBUUR v RKC — *postponed*

MVV v GRONINGEN — *postponed*

VITESSE v NAC — *postponed*

SPARTA v VOLENDAM — *postoned*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

WEEKEND

GRONINGEN 1 (Djurowski 20)
SPARTA 4 (De Noojer 11, Valke 30, Bogarde 50, 72). Att: 10,000.

FEYENOORD 1 (Taument 52)
UTRECHT 1 (De Kock 90). Att: 25,000.

HEERENVEEN v AJAX — *postponed*

VOLENDAM 2 (Wasiman 51, Stepanovic 90)
VITESSE 0. Att: 1,768.

TWENTE 2 (Hoogma 32, Mols 77)
RODA 1 (Hofstede 33). Att: 5,679.

VVV 1 (Laros 56)
CAMBUUR 0. Att: 4,567.

WILLEM II 4 (Van Hintum 55, Dechevier 75, Stewart 87, Van Geel 89)
RKC 1 (Meijs 80). Att: 5,600.

GA EAGLES 2 (Heering 20, Rorije 30)
MVV 2 (Roelofsen 36 og, Lanckohr 88). Att: 5,000.

NAC BREDA 2 (Lammers 9, Van Hoojdonk 71)
PSV 2 (Numan 59, Kieft 72). Att: 12,700.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

WEEKEND

CAMBUUR 1 (Dantuma 56)
TWENTE 1 (Pahipatz pen 42). Att: 6,000.

RODA 1 (Babangida 73)
FEYENOORD 0. Att: 10,500.

PSV 3 (Meijer 22, Hoekstra 26, Van Ankeren 76)
VOLENDAM 0. Att: 24,500.

MVV 3 (Derksen 24, Roefofsen 56, Visser 77)
HEERENVEEN 1 (Tammer 3). Att: 4,600.

AJAX 3 (Van Arum og 55, Litmanen 67, Ronald de Boer 76)
WILLEM II 1 (Van Arum 40). Att: 19,441.

UTRECHT 0
NAC 5 (Van Hoojdonk 7, 87, Lokhoff 9, 61, Brusselers 19). Att: 5,750.

VITESSE 4 (Gillhaus 28, 71, 90, Cocu 79)
GRONINGEN 1 (Ter Avest 52). Att: 4,856.

SPARTA 1 (De Noojer 65)
GA EAGLES 0. Att: 2,500.

RKC 1 (Boogers 15)
VVV 2 (Verberne 6, Manfreda 73). Att: 1,900.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

MIDWEEK

CAMBUUR 0
RODA 1 (Hofstede 31). Att: 4,500.

WEEKEND

MVV 1 (Derksen 80)
WILLEM II 0. Att: 4,612.

SPARTA 3 (De Nooijer 64, Volaan 79, De Visser 73 og)
HEERENVEEN 0. Att: 3,000.

VITESSE 5 (Cocu 40, 70, 95, Gillhaus 53, 59)
GA EAGLES 0. Att: 5,978.

RODA JC v NAC — *postponed*

RKC v AJAX — *postponed*

PSV 1 (Meijer 44)
GRONINGEN 1 (Wynhof 30). Att: 22,900.

UTRECHT 3 (Vierklau 52, De Kruyl 60, De Jong 76)
VOLENDAM 1 (Wasiman 84 pen). Att: 3,500.

CAMBUUR v FEYENOORD — *postponed*

VVV 0
TWENTE 0.Att: 4,565.

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

WEEKEND

MARITIMO 0
SETUBAL 0. Att: 7,800.

BEIRA-MAR 0
AMADORA 1 (Fernando 12). Att: 8,300

BENFICA 3 (Joao Pinto 32, Mozer 41, Paneira 55 pen)
BELENENSES 0. Att: 30,000.

FARENSE 0
GUIMARAES 1 (Paulo Vento 11 pen). Att: 12,450.

FAMALICAO 1 (Amarildo 66)
SALGUEIROS 0. Att: 12,450.

BOAVISTA 1 (Ricky 57)
GIL VICENTE 2 (Rui Neves 9, Drulovic 42). Att: 15,000.

BRAGA 0
PACOS FERREIRA 0. Att: 13,000

FC PORTO v UNIAO — *postponed*

SPORTING v ESTORIL — *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

WEEKEND

PORTUGUESE CUP — 4TH ROUND

FC PORTO 5
ACADENICO VISEU 2

SALGUEIROS 2
ALCACERENSE 0

BENFICA 4
ESTORIL 0

BELENENSES 1
LOUIETANO 0

VIZELA 2
FAMALICAO 3

BEIRA MAR 4
VILA REAL 0

BRAGA 2
GIL VICENTE 0

ESPINHO 2
PACOS FERREIRA 1

GUIMARAES 1
FARENSE 0

SETUBAL 6
PORTIMONENSE 1

UNIAO LEIRIA 0
MARITIMO 0

CASTELO MAIA 0
UNIAO MADEIRA 3

ESTRELA AMADORA 2
GUARDA 1

TORENSE 1
OVARENSE 0

SPORTING 4
LECA 3

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

WEEKEND

PACOS FERREIRA 1 (Rudez 48)
FARENSE 0. Att: 9,000.

SALGUEIROS 5 (Rui Alberto 6, 62, Bino 41, Milovac 58, Abilio 76)
SPORTING 1(Neves 36). Att: 9,500.

SETUBAL 6 (Yekini 3, Chiquinho Conde 58, Rosario 68, 78, 83, Yekini 73)
FAMALICAO 1 (Amarildo15). Att: 20,000.

BELENENSES 2 (Luis Gustavo 16, Goncalves 44)
MARITIMO 1 (Paulo Madeira 49). Att: 7,670.

AMADORA 0
BENFICA 1 (Rui Costa 79). Att: 15,000.

UNIAO 3 (Sergio Lavos 45, Robert 47, Manu 89)
ESTORIL 0. Att: 9,000.

GIL VICENTE 1 (Miguel 15)
FC PORTO 1 (Jose Carlos 32). Att: 11,000.

GUIMARAES 1 (Pedro 75)
BOAVISTA 0. Att: 13,400.

SPORTING v BEIRA-MAR — *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

MIDWEEK

SPORTING 1 (Cadete 43)
BEIRA-MAR 0. Att: 15,000.

WEEKEND

ESTORIL 1 (Carlos Manuel 44)
GIL VICENTE 1 (Mangonga 45). Att: 5,350.

BEIRA MAR 0
UNIAO MADEIRA 0. Att: 7,000.

FC PORTO 1 (Jose Carlos 49)
GUIMARAES 1 (Ziao 74). Att: 30,000.

BENFICA 2 (Yuran 50, Isaias 82)
SPORTING 1 (Figo 28). Att: 70,000.

MARITIMO 0
AMADORA 0. Att: 14,000.

FAMALAICAO 2 (Mihtarski 23, Piquita 43)
BELENENSES 3 (Mauro Suares 31, Goncalves 35, M'Be 86). Att: 11,400.

BRAGA 2 (Aroglan 24, 39)
SETUBAL 1 (Yekini 44). Att: 10,000.

PACOS FERREIRA 0
SALGUEIROS 2 (Melipa 3, Sa Pinto 73). Att: 8,000.

FARENSE 1 (Stevanovic 24)
BOAVISTA 0. Att: 12,000.

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

WEEKEND

SION 1 (Djurvoski 7)
SERVETTE 1 (Herrman 80). Att: 11,000.

GRASSHOPPER 3 (Magna 2, 57, Willems 73)
YOUNG BOYS 3 (Kunz 6, 80, Hatmann (87). Att: 3,600.

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 3 (Ramzy 26, Chasseau 78, Zemaria 86)
AARAU 0. Att: 7,200.

LUCERNE 2 (Bertelsen 64, Bulhman 89)
YVERDON 0. Att: 6,100.

LAUSANNE 0
ZURICH 0. Att: 4,500.

LUGANO 0
KRIENS 0. Att: 2,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

MIDWEEK

SERVETTE 1 (Neuville 44)
NEUTCHATEL XAMAX 0. Att: 3,000.

AARAU 0
LAUSANNE 0. Att: 3,200.

ZURICH 1 (Mazzarelli 46)
LUGANO 1 (Andrioli 22). Att: 1,800.

KRIENS 1 (Germann 68)
LUCERNE 0. Att: 4,200.

YVERDON 0
GRASSHOPPER 0. Att: 1,650.

YOUNG BOYS 0
SION 2 (Giannini 26, Hottiger 90). Att: 3,500.

WEEKEND

GRASSHOPPER 1 (Bickel 43)
KRIENS 1 (Heitzmann 66). Att: 2,500.

LAUSANNE 2 (Sylvestre 45, Sogbie 90)
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 0. Att: 4,500.

LUGANO 1 (Subiat 68)
AARAU 3 (Renggli 11, Romano 51, Carrasco 88). Att: 3,100.

LUCERNE 0
ZURICH 1 (Balijic 26). Att: 8,900.

SION 4 (Rey 35, 67, Fournier 53, Hottiger 88)
YVERDON 1 (Guex 33). Att: 9,500.

YOUNG BOYS 4 (Kunz 45, Christensen 64, Hartmann 71, Bregy pen 82)
SERVETTE 2 (Renato 43, 46). Att: 5,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

WEEKEND

SERVETTE 3 (Margarini 12, Sinval 44, Renato 74)
LAUSANNE 2 (Biaggi 64, Sylvesiro 89). Att: 4,500.

NEUCHATEL 0
LUGANO 0. Att: 4,100.

AARAU 1 (Romano 63)
LUCERNE 2 (Guntenssperger 18, 27). Att: 7,700.

ZURICH 0
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Vega 73). Att: 10,800.

KRIENS 1 (De Simone 47)
SION 1 (Rey 87). Att: 1,000.

YVERDON 0
YOUNG BOYS 0. Att: 2,500.

INTERNATIONAL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

Dec 5 = Los Angeles/Coliseum — friendly
UNITED STATES 7 (Kinnear 28, 43, Moore 35, 42, 65, 70, Perez 57)
EL SALVADOR 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 7,618. **Ref:** Castellanos (Mex)
US: Meola — Dooley (Balboa 61), Lapper (Caligiuri 46), Agoos (Santel 73), Lalas, Sorber, Kinnear (Chung 57), Jones, Henderson (Michallik 46), Perez, Moore.
El Salvador: Chaves — Joya, Mayen, Salazar (Juarez 59), Alfaro Penate (Gonzales 70), Lopez, Borja, Rodriguez, Dawson Prado (Colorado 46), Navarrete (Alvarado 54), Cerritos.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15

Dec 15 = Miami — friendly
ARGENTINA 2 (Hernan Diaz 5, Balbo 64)
GERMANY 1 (Moller 8)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 33,000
Argentina: Goycochea — Vazquez (Jorge Borelli 86), Mac Allister, Ruggeri, Hernan Diaz, Mancuso, Perez, Cagna, Rodriguez (Monserrat 88), Medina Bello (Ortega 90), Balbo.
Germany: Kopke — Brehme, Kohler, Helmer, Buchwald, Matthaus, Moller (Sammer 70), Hassler, Effenberg, Klinsmann (Thom 68), Kirsten.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

Dec 18 = Palo Alto, Calif — friendly
UNITED STATES 0
GERMANY 3 (Moller 16, Kuntz 79, Thom 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 52,397. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)
US: Friedel — Armstrong, Lapper, Lalas, Agoos (Bliss 60), Sorber, Dooley, Moore (Kinnear 71), Jones, Perez (Deering 46), Stewart.
Germany: Illgner — Matthaus, Kohler (Sammer 46), Eilts, Effenberg, Hassler (Strunz 75), Buchwald, Brehme (Ziege 46), Moller, Klinsmann (Thom 63), Kuntz.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

Dec 19 = Bamako — friendly
MALI 0
IVORY COAST 1 (A. Traore 22)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

Dec 22 = Mexico City — intl friendly
MEXICO 0
GERMANY 0
Att: 114,000. **Ref:** Sawtell (Can)
Mexico: Campos — Rodriguez, Ramirez Perales, Ambriz, Ramon Ramirez (Castaneda 79), Bernal, Garcia Aspe (Herrera 46), Del Olmo, Luis Garcia, Zague Alves, Patino (Galindo 46).
Germany: Illgner — Kohler, Matthaus, Schulz, Effenberg (Eilts 78), Gaudino (Hassler 53), Sammer, Strunz, Ziege (Kuntz 64), Klinsmann (Kirsten 70), Moller.

SOUTH-EAST ASIAN GAMES
Final: Nepal 2, India 2. *Nepal won 6-5 on pens.*

OTHER MATCHES
Dec 9 *(Buenos Aires)*: Huracan 2, Bolivia 1.
Dec 12 *(Ougadougou)*: Burkina Faso 1, Africans in France 2.
Dec 22 *(San Sebastian)*: Basque XI 3, Bolivia 1 (Moreno 14).

EUROPEAN CUPS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
2nd match day *(December 8 unless stated)*

GROUP A

MOSCOW SPARTAK 0
GALATASARAY 0
Att: 40,000. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol)
Spartak: Pomazun — Khlestov (Ivanov 33), *Mamedov, Tsymbalar, Pisarev, Nikiforov, *Onopko, Karpin, Piatnitski, Lediakhov, Beschasnykh (Ananko 58).
**Red cards:* Mamedov and Onopko.
Galatasaray: Hayrettin — *Stumpf, Bulent, Yusuf, Mert (Erdal Keser 85), Tugay, Ugur, Hamza, Hakan, Suat, Arif.
**Red card:* Stumpf.

BARCELONA 2 (Beguiristain 16, 27)
MONACO 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 89,000. **Ref:** Nielsen (Den)
Barcelona: Zubizarreta — Ferrer, Guardiola, Koeman, Sergi, Bakero, Goikoetxea, Stoichkov, M Laudrup, Amor, Beguiristain.
Monaco: Ettori — Valery, Sonor, Petit, Dumas, Puel, Klinsmann, Djorkaeff, Thuram, Scifo, Ikpeba.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
AS Monaco	2	1	0	1	4	3	2
Galatasaray	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Moscow Spartak	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

GROUP B

WERDER BREMEN 5 (Rufer 66, 89, Bratseth 72, Hobsch 81, Bode 83)
ANDERLECHT 3 (Albert 16, Boffin 18, 33)
HT: 0-3. 3 **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Craciunescu (Rom)
Werder Bremen: Reck — Basler (Wiedener 86), Bode, Bratseth, Beiersdorfer, Borowka, Eilts, Votava,Hobsch, Herzog (Wolter 46), Rufer.
Anderlecht: Dewilde — Crasson, Rutjes, Albert, Emmers, Walem, Zetterberg (Kooiman 83), Bosman (Nilis 70), Haagdoren, Versavel, Boffin.

MILAN 3 (Raducioiu 16, Panucci 39, Massaro 63)
FC PORTO 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe). *(Played Dec 1).*
Milan: Rossi — Panucci, Maldini, Albertini, Costacurta, Baresi, Massaro, Donadoni, Papin (Tassotti 64), Savicevic, Raducioiu (Carbone 16).
FC Porto: Victor Baia — Joao Pinto, Paulo Pereira (Vinha 46), Aloisio, Fernando Couto, Jose Carlos, Secretario, Rui Jorge, Domingos, Semedo, Paulinho Santos (Rui Filipe 46).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	2	1	1	0	3	0	3
Werder Bremen	2	1	0	1	7	6	2
FC Porto	2	1	0	1	3	5	2
Anderlecht	2	0	1	1	3	5	1

UEFA CUP
THIRD ROUND — SECOND LEG
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 3 (Lainer 47, Huetter 90, Amerhauser 113)
SPORTING LISBON 0
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 2-0. **Att:** 10,500 *(Played Dec 7)*
Austria Salzburg won 3-2 on agg, after extra time

BOAVISTA 2 (Nelson 24, Nogueira 77)
OFI CRETE 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000 *(Played December 7)*
Boavista won 6-1 on agg

KARLSRUHE 3 (Schmitt 16, 75, Kiriakov 65)
BORDEAUX 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000 *(Played December 7)*
Karlsruhe won 3-1 on agg

LA CORUNA 0
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Gaudino 15)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 33,000 *(Played December 7)*
Eintracht won 2-0 on agg

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Zorc 29)
BRONDBY 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000.
Dortmund won 2-1 on agg

CAGLIARI 2 (Firicano 14, Allegri 79)
MECHELEN 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 32,000.
Cagliari won 5-1 on agg

INTERNAZIONALE 1 (Bergkamp 88)
NORWICH CITY 0
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** V Krondl (Cze)
Inter won 2-0 on agg
Inter: Zenga — Bergomi, Orlando, Shalimov, M Paganin, Battistini, A Paganin, Dell'Anno, Fontolan, Bergkamp, Sosa.
Norwich: Gunn — Woodthorpe, Bowen, Megson, Prior (Power 77), Newman, Ekoku (Sutch 84), Ullathorne, Sutton, Fox, Goss.

TENERIFE 2 (Aguilera 37, Del Solar 86)
JUVENTUS 1 (Moller 85)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,000.
Juventus won 4-2 on agg

WORLD CUP SPONSORS NAME THEIR MASTERS

WORLD CUP sponsors MasterCard are donating almost £20,000 to a string of international charities and deserving causes after the climax of its Masters of the 1994 World Cup promotion.

Sports media representatives in the major European nations were asked to nominate a shortlist of their country's outstanding players in the recent World Cup qualifiers.

Once the preliminary competition had ended on November 17, the lists were whittled down to one player per country by a panel comprising Bobby Charlton and the Editors of the members of the European Sports Magazines group of which *WORLD SOCCER* is a member (The other members of ESM are *Kicker*, Germany; *Sport*, Switzerland; *Don Balon*, Spain; *Guerin Sportivo*, Italy; *Onze-Mondial*, France; *Voetbal International*, Holland; and *A Bola*, Portugal).

The winners (and charitable concerns to which qualifiers each nominated a £1,000 prize and non-qualifiers each nominated a £350 prize) were as follows: *Austria:* Andy Herzog (Austrian handicapped). *Belgium:* Enzo Scifo (Mexican orphanage); *Bulgaria:* Emil Kostadinov (Sofia school for deaf children); *Czechoslovakia:* Lubomir Moravcik (centre for mentally handicapped); *Denmark:* Brian Laudrup (disabled sports). *England:* David Platt (Christopher Cooper Fund assisting 12-year-old suffering from muscular disease). *France:* Eric Cantona (French charitable fund for the needy). *Germany:* Lothar Matthaus (DFB children's home in Mexico). *Greece:* Stelios Manolas (drug rehabilitation centre). *Holland:* Dennis Bergkamp (UNICEF). *Hungary:* Jozsef Kiprich (youth football education programme). *Italy:* Roberto Baggio (children's leukaemia association). *N Ireland:* Jimmy Quinn (Belfast Hospital for Sick Children). *Norway:* Rune Bratseth (UNICEF). *Poland:* Marek Lesniak (orphanage in Szczecin). *Portugal:* Paulo Futre (Portuguese fund for needy). *Rep Ireland:* Andy Townsend (Stewart's Hospital for mentally handicapped). *Romania:* Gheorghe Popescu (Bucharest orphanage). *Russia:* Sergei Kiriakov (physically handicapped athletes). *Scotland:* Ally McCoist (Scottish Leukaemia Research Fund). *Spain:* Fernando Hierro (disabled children). *Sweden:* Martin Dahlin (Save the Children). *Switzerland:* Stephane Chapuisat (fund for orphans in Croatia and Bosnia). *Turkey:* Hakan Sukur (Turkish Sports Foundation). *Wales:* Ryan Giggs (Family of John Hill — who died after being struck by a rocket flare after the Wales v Romania game).

SOUTH AMERICA

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPER CUP

Semi-finals —1st leg

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

In Sao Paulo, Brazil.
SAO PAULO (Bra) 1 (Muller)
NACIONAL (Col) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Jorge Nieves (Uru).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Cafu, Valher, Ronaldo, Andre, Doriva, Dinho, Palhina, Leonardo, Valdeir (Toninho Cerezo), Muller.
Nacional: Castaneda, Herrera, Marulanda, Escobar, J.Gomez, G.Gomez, Restrepo, Serna, Garcia, Trallez, Aristizabal (Carmona).
● Sao Paulo pressed more, but found rival goalkeeper Castaneda hard to beat. And the shot that did go in after 77 minutes looked offside.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
FLAMENGO (Bra) 2 (Casagrande,Renato)
NACIONAL (Uru) 1 (O'Neil)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Francisco Lamolina (Arg).
Flamengo: Gilmar, Charles, Gelson, Rogerio, Pia, Fabinho, Marquinhos, Nelio, Marcelinho, Renato, Casagrande.
Nacional: Sere, Mendez, Canals, Saravia, Pintos Saldana, Larre, Gutierrez, Olivera (O'Neil), Suarez, Morales, Gonzalez.
● Flamengo dominated from the start, but Nacional improved in the second half of an exciting match.

Semi-finals — 2nd leg

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11
In Montevideo, Uruguay.
NACIONAL (Uru) 0
FLAMENGO (Bra) 3 (Nelio 2, Renato)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Juan C. Loustau (Arg).
Flamengo won 5-1 on agg
Nacional: Sere, Mendez, Canals, Sarabia, Pintos Saldana, Olivera (O'Neill), Suarez (Pereira), Gutierrez, Larre, Vidal Gonzalez, Morales.
Flamengo: Gilmar, Charles, Junior Bahiano, Rogerio, Andriano, Fabinho, Marquinhos, Marcelinho (Lopez), Nelio (Julio Cesar), Renato, Casagrande.

In Medellin, Colombia.
NACIONAL (Col) 2 (Aristizabal, Zuniga)
SAO PAULO (Bra) 1 (Palhinha)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Alberto Tejada (Peru).
Agg: 2-2, Sao Paulo won 5-4 on pens
Nacional: Castaneda, Herrera, Escobar, Marulanda, Osorio, J.Gomez, G. Gomez, Serna (Zuniga), Garcia, Trellez, Aristizabal.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Cafu, Valber, Ronaldo, Andre, Doriva, Dinho, Leonardo, Palinha (Julinho), Jura, Muller.

Final — 1st leg

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
FLAMENGO (Bra) 2 (Marquinhos 2)
SAO PAULO (Bra) 2 (Leonardo, Juninho)
HT: 1-1.
Flamengo: Gilmar, Charles, Junior Bahiano, Rogerio, Adriano, Marquinhos, Marcelinho, Nelio, Fabinho, Renato (Pia), Casagrande (Gelson).
Sao Paulo: Zotti, Cafu, Ronaldo, Valber, Andre, Doriva, Dinho, Toninho Cerezo (Valdeir), Leonardo, Muller, Palhinha (Juninho).
● A late goal from young substitute Juninho gave Sao Paulo a valuable away draw in heavy rain. They had taken the lead after 15 minutes, but Flamengo got on top and went 2-1 up just after the break and were dominating the game, but the sending off of defender Junior Bahiano put them back on the defensive.

Final — 2nd leg

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

In Sao Paulo, Brazil.
SAO PAULO (Bra) 2 (Leonardo, Juninho)
FLAMENGO (Bra) 2 (Renato, Marquinhos)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Renato Marsiglia (Bra).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Cafu, Valber, Ronaldo, Andre, Doriva, Dinho, Toninho Cerezo (Juninho), Leonardo, Palhinha (Guilherme), Muller.
Flamengo: Gilmar, Charles, Gelson, Rogerio, Marcos Adriano, Fabinho, Marquinhos, Nelio, Marcelinho, Renato (Eder Lopes), Casagrande (Magno).
● In Brazil they called this the best match of the season although Sao Paulo struggled at the start as they could not get into their usual stride and only equalised a 10-minute Renato goal after 60 minutes. It had looked like Flamengo's trophy for a long time and in the final 15 minutes it looked like Sao Paulo's trophy as Junhinho put them in front with 10 minutes to go, but Marquinhos equalized two minutes later and the 2-2 score added up to a 4-4 aggregate and penalties had to decide. Sao Paulo netted all five through Dinho, Leonardo, Cafu, Andre and Muller while Flamengo, shooting second, scored through Rogerio, Marquinhos and Gelson, but Marcelinho hit a post.

CONCACAF Club Champions Cup
Final round (in Guatemala)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

LEON (Mex) 2 (Queiroz 2)
SAPRISSA (CR) 2 (Ramirez, Meyers)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Victorino Rodriguez (ES).
Leon: A. Martinez, Cadena, Murquia, S. Martinez, Lopez, Munoz, Bravo, Benatto, Queiroz, Vanderlei, Ayipey.
Saprissa: Lonnys, Sanchez, Gonzalez, Diaz, Mayorga, Fonseca, Myers, Medford, Ramirez, Morera (Wright), Coronado (Cayasso).

MUNICIPAL (Guat) 3 (Julio Rodas 2, Gonzalez)
ROBIN HOOD (Sur) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Charles Barreth (Jam).
Municipal: Chuca, Ruano (Salguero), Gardiner, Pacheco, Hernaddez, Jorge Rodas, Junes, Valencia, Plata (Gordon), Gonzalez, Julio Rodas.
Robin Hood: Pique, Reinhard, Brown, Vorswick, Jeroe, Feller, Rigters, Tol, Poetisi, Klinker (Belgrave), Anches (Renfurm).
● Municipal were two up in four minutes against the weakest finalists and then, perhaps, did not go all out — a mistake in view of goals deciding the title in the end.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

LEON (Mex) 4 (Vanderlei, Tita 2, Ayipey).
ROBIN HOOD (Sur) 0.
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Charles Jarreth (Jam).
Leon: Fereira, Cadena, Murquia, S. Martinez, Lopez, Munoz, Pessoa, Valdez (Arteaga), Vanderlei (Ayipey), Benatto, Tita.
Robin Hood: Pique, Reinhard, Lobles, Vorswilik, Jeroe, Feller, Rigters, Poetisi, Belgrave (Klinker), Anchee (Atmollimedjo), Tol.

MUNICIPAL (Guat) 0
SAPRISSA (CR) 0
Att: 50,000. **Ref:** Arsenio Alvarado (ES).
Municipal: Chuga, Ruano, Gardiner, Pacheco, G. Hernandez, Jorge Rodes, Funes, Valencia (Villareal), Plata, Gonzalez (Gordon), Julio Rodas.
Saprissa: Lonnis, Quezada, Sanchez, Gonzalez, Diaz, Fonseca (Coronado), Morera, Medford, Ramirez, Myers, Wright (Cayasso).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

LEON (Mex) 0
MUNICIPAL (Guat) 0
Leon: Fereira, Cadena, Murquia, S. Martinez, Lopez, Munoz, Passao, Benatto (Marquinhos), Valdez (R. Martinez), Queiroz, Vanderlei (Ayipey).
Municipal: Chuga, Ruano, Gardiner, Pacheco, Hernandez (Villareal), Jorge Rodas, Valencia, Plata (Gordon), Gonzalez, Julio Rodas, Everaldo.

SAPRISSA (CR) 9 (Medford 4, Fonseca 2, Coronado 2, Myers)
ROBIN HOOD (Sur) 1 (Rigters)
HT: 4-0.
Saprissa: Lonnis, Quezada, Mayorga, Gonzalez, Diaz, Herra (Fonseca), Cayasso, Medford, Ramirez (Hilario), Myers, Coronado.
Robin Hood: Pique, Reinhard, Lobles, Vorswilik, Feller, Ranfurn, Klinker (Atmollimodjo), Tol (Jeroe), Rigters, Poetisi, Anches.

Final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAPRISSA	3	1	2	0	11	3	4
Leon	3	1	2	0	6	2	4
Municipal	3	1	2	0	3	0	4
Robin Hood	3	0	0	3	1	16	0

Saprissa won on goal difference

RESULTS

AFRICA

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP

First round

Malindi v Zamalek (Egy) 0-1 0-4
Zamalek 5-0 on agg

Kiyovu Sport v Kaizer Chiefs 2-5 1-4
Chiefs 9-3 on agg

Sunrise v Al Hilal (Sud) 2-0 1-0
Sunrise 3-0 on agg

AFC Leopards (Ken) v Nkana RD (Zam) 1-1 0-1
Red Devils 2-1 on agg

Nakivubo Villa (Uga) v Vital 'O (Bur) 1-0 1-2
Agg: 2-2, Villa on away goals

AC Sotema w/o v Black Aces (Zim) ..... *withdrew*

Costa do Sol w/o v Union Milambe (Zai) *disqualified*

Djoliba v ASEC Abidjan (IC) 1-1 0-2
ASEC 3-1 on agg

KAC Marrakesh (Mor) v Horoya (Gui) 5-0 0-1
KAC 5-1 on agg

Sahel SC v Asante Kotoko (Gha) 0-0 0-2
Asante 2-0 on agg

Etoile Filante v Mouloudia d'Oran (Alg) 1-0 0-2
Mouloudia 2-1 on agg

Prim. Agosto v Racing Bafoussam (Cam) 2-2 0-2
Racing 4-2 on agg

LPRC Oilers *disqualified* v Club Africain (Tun) ..... w/o

AS Sogara (Gab) v Etoile du Congo (Con) 2-0 0-0
Sogara 2-0 on agg

TP USCA v Stationary Stores (Nig) 1-3 2-2
Stars 5-3 on agg

ASC Ndiamdour v Wydad (Mor, holders) 2-1 1-3
Wydad 4-3 on agg

Second round

Kaizer Chiefs v Zamalek 2-1 0-1
Agg: 2-2, Zamalek on away goals

Nkana Red Devils v Sunrise SC 0-0 1-1
Agg: 1-1, Devils on away goals

AC Sotema v Nakivubo Villa 0-2 2-6
Villa 8-2 on agg

ASEC Abidjan v Costa do Sol 2-0 1-1
ASEC 3-1 on agg

Asante Kotoko v KAC Marrakesh 3-0 0-1
Asante 3-1 on agg

Racing Bafoussam v Mouloudia d'Oran 1-0 0-2
Mouloudia 2-1 on agg

AS Sogara v Club Africain 1-0 2-2
Sogara 3-2 on agg

Wydad Casabalanca v Stationary Stores 3-1 1-4
Stores 5-4 on agg

Quarter-finals

Zamalek v Mouloudia d'Oran 4-0 1-1
Zamalek 5-1 on agg

AS Sogara v Stationery Stores 3-2 0-1
Agg: 3-3, Stores on away goals

Nakivubo Villa v ASEC Abidjan 1-1
Villa withdrew from second leg, ASEC go through

Nkana Red Devils v Asante Kotoko 1-0 0-3
Kotoko 3-1 on agg

Semi-finals

Zamalek v Stationery Stores 3-1 0-1
Zamalek 3-2 on agg

ASEC Abidjan v Asante Kotoko 3-1 0-2
Agg: 3-3, Asante won on away goals

Final

Asante Kotoko v Zamalek 0-0 0-0
0-0 on agg, Zamalek won 7-6 on pens

Leading scorers
4: Ipaye Wasiu (AS Sogara), Ekekiel Alamu (Stationery Stores)
3: Affif Goual (Mouloudia Oran), Ayman Mansour (Zamalek), Rachid Daoudi (Wydad Casablanca), Driss Loumari (Kawkab Marrakesh), Ronnie Dube (Kaizer Chiefs), Eric September (Kaizer Chiefs), Suleiman Kato (Nakivubo Villa).

AFRICAN CUP-WINNERS CUP

First round

Daring Club Motema Pembe (Zai) v Liverpool 6-1
Liverpool disqualified from second leg, Daring go through

CARA Brazzaville (Con) v Petro Atletico 1-0 1-3
Atletico 3-2 on agg

Kabwe Warriors (Zam) v Prince Louis (Bur) 2-1 *1-1
** abandoned, Prince Louis w/o, Kabwe Warriors disqualified*

COSFAP (Mad) v Jomo Cosmos 0-2 2-3
Cosmos 5-2 on agg

Clube de Gaza (Moz) v Arsenal 2-2 1-1
Agg: 3-3, Arsenal on away goals

Al Ahly (Egy) v Pamba 5-0 0-0
Al Ahly 5-0 on agg

Wankie (Zim) v Kenya Breweries 0-2 1-1
Breweries 3-1 on agg

El Merreikh (Sud) v Express FC (Uga) 3-0 0-2
El Merreikh 3-2 on agg

JS Kabylie (Alg) v ASC SNIM 8-1 3-1
JS 11-2 on agg

Dragons Oueme (Ben) v Olympic (Niger) 4-0 2-2
Dragons 6-2 on agg

Stade Tunisien (Tun) v Hafia 1-0 0-0
Stade 1-0 on agg

Voradep (Gha) v US Goreenne (Sen) 0-0 0-1
Goreenne 1-0 on agg

Africa Sports (IC, holders) w/o v NPA Anchors (Lib) ..... *disqualified*

Delta (Gab) v Semassi Sokode 1-0 0-2
Semassi 2-1 on agg

El Kanemi Warriors (Nig) v El Nguema 4-0 0-0
Warriors 4-0 on agg

Olympic Mvolye (Cam) v RC Kadiogo (BF) 1-0 1-1
Olympic 2-1 on agg

Second round

DC Motema Pembe v Petro Atletico 0-0 2-2
Agg: 2-2, Motema Pembe on away goals

Prince Louis v Jomo Cosmos 3-3 0-4
Cosmos 7-3 on agg

Arsenal v Al Ahly 0-1 0-1
Al Ahly 2-0 on agg

Kenya Breweries v El Merreikh 1-1 0-1
El Merreikh 2-1 on agg

JS Kabylie v Dragons Oueme 4-0 0-3
JS 4-3 on agg

Stade Tunisien v US Goreenne 2-0 0-1
Stade Tunisien 2-1 on agg

Africa Sport v Semassi Sokode 4-0 3-0
Africa Sport 7-0 on agg

El Kanemi Warriors v Olympic Mvolye 4-0 0-3
Warriors 4-3 on agg

Quarter-finals

El Kanemi Warriors v Stade Tunisien 1-0 1-1
Warriors 2-1 on agg

El Merreikh v Al Ahly 1-2 1-5
Al Ahly 7-2 on agg

DC Motema Pembe v Jomo Cosmos 2-1 0-1
Agg: 2-2, Cosmos on away goals

Africa Sport v JS Kabylie 4-0 0-1
Africa Sport 4-1 on agg

Semi-finals

Al Ahly v El Kanemi Warriors 3-0 0-0
Al Ahly 3-0 on agg

Jomo Cosmos v Africa Sport 1-1 0-4
Africa Sport 5-1 on agg

Final

Africa Sport v Al Ahly 1-1 0-1
Al Ahly 2-1 on agg

Leading scorers
9: Chris Mwakupuki (Jomo Cosmos)
5: Lefika Lekhotla (Arsenal)
4: Thompson Oliha (Africa Sport), Thomas Madigage (Jomo Cosmos).

CAF CUP

First round

Insurance v Merreikh El Obayed (Sud) 0-0 1-1
Agg: 1-1, Insurance on away goals

Young Ones w/o v Profund Warriors (Zam) ..... *withdrew*

Manzini Wanderers (Swa) w/o v CAPS United (Zim) ..... *withdrew*

Simba (Tan) v Ferroviario de Maputo (Moz) 0-0 1-1
Agg: 1-1, Simba won on away goals

Coffee SC (Uga) v Gor Mahia (Ken) 0-1 1-0
Agg: 1-1, Gor Mahia 5-4 on pens

MDC United (Malawi) v Hellenic (SA) 1-1 0-6
Hellenic 7-1 on agg

Janne d'Arc (Sen) v USM Harrach (Alg) 0-0 1-6
El Harrach 6-1 on agg

FDA Forester (Lib) v Hearts of Oak (Gha) 0-2 1-5
Hearts of Oak 7-1 on agg

ASC Air Mauritanie v ASFAG (Gui) 0-1 3-1
Air Mauritanie 3-2 on agg

Zumunta (Niger) v ASFA Yennega (BF) 1-1 2-0
Zumunta 3-1 on agg

Tourbillon v Canon Yaounde (Cam) 0-0 0-3
Canon Yaounde 3-0 on agg

FC Scribe (Zai) v Atletico Sport Aviacao (Ang) 0-0 0-2
ASA 2-0 on agg

Stella Abidjan (IC) w/o v Kambui Eagles (SL) ..... *withdrew*

Shooting Stars (Nig) v Sigui de Kayes (Mali) 2-1 0-1
Agg: 2-2, Sigui de Kayes on away goals

Petrosport (Con) v Renquins Atlantique (Ben) 3-0 0-1
Petrosport 3-1 on agg

Entente Deux v Mbilinga (Gab) 0-3 2-2
Mbilinga 5-2 on agg

Second round

Young Ones v Insurance 2-1 0-7
Insurance 8-2 on agg

Simba v Manzini Wanderers 1-0 1-0
Simba 2-0 on agg

Hellenic v Gor Mahia 3-1 0-2
Agg: 3-3, Gor Mahia on away goals

Hearts of Oak v USM Harrach 3-2 2-3
USM 6-5 on pens

Zumunta v ASC Air Mauritanie 2-0 2-1
Zumunta 4-1 on agg

Atletico Sport Aviacao v Canon Yaounde 0-0 2-0
ASA 2-0 on agg

Sigui de Kayes v Stella Abidjan 0-2 0-3
Stella 5-0 on agg

Mbilinga v Petrosport 3-0 2-0
Mbilinga 5-0 on agg

Quarter-finals

Stella Abidjan v Mbilinga 1-1 2-2
Stella on away goals

Insurance v Zumunta 2-0 0-1
Insurance 2-1 on agg

Simba v USM Harrach 3-0 0-2
Simba 3-2 on agg

Atletico Sport Aviacao v Gor Mahia 0-0 0-0
Aviacao 4-2 on pens

Semi-finals

Stella Abidjan v Insurance 3-0 0-1
Stella 3-1 on agg

Simba v Atletico Sport Aviacao 3-1 0-0
Simba 3-1 on agg

Final

Stella Abidjan v Simba 0-0 2-0
Stella 2-0 on agg

Leading scorers
5: Mark Williams (Hellenic)
4: Smail Djadi (El Harrach), Said Boutaleb (El Harrach).
3: Berhanu Temesgen (Insurance), Hassen Beshir (Insurance), Guy Mbinah (Mbilinga), Sylvain Kassa (Mbilinga), Shamo Quaye (Hearts of Oak).

1994 AFRICAN CLUB COMPETITIONS

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP
Preliminary Round
St Pierroise (RI) v Mbabane Swallows (Swa)
Lobatse Gunners (Bot) v Chief Santos (Nam)
Electric (Eth) v Kivoyu Sport (Rwa)
Mauritanian representative v Academica do Sal (CVI)
Postel 2000 (Chad) v Tempete Mocaf (CAR)
Mighty Barolle (Lib) v Semasi de Sokode (Togo)
Preliminary round matches to be played over two legs on January 21-23 and February 4-6.
First Round
Costa do Sol (Moz) v St Pierroise or Mbabane Swallows
Zambia representative v Highlanders (Zim)
Vita Club (Zaii) v Lobatse Gunners or Chief Santos
Arsenal (Les) v Mamelodi Sundowns (SA)
Gor Mahia (Ken) v Electric or Kivoyu Sport
Zamalek (Egy, holders) v Express (Uga)
El Merreikh (Sud) v Simba SC (Tan)
Fire Brigade (Mauritius) v BTM (Mad)
Mouloudia d'Oran (Alg) v Mauritania representative or Academica do Sal
Guinea representative v Postel 2000 or Tempete Mocaf
Sierra Leone representative v Stade Malien (Mali)
Esperance (Tun) v Etoile Filante (BF)
Wydad Casablanca (Mor) v Mighty Barolle or Semasi de Sokode
Petro Atletico (Ang) v AS Sogara (Gab)
Iwuanyanwu Nationale (Nigeria) v Zumunta AC (Niger)
Racing Bassfaoum (Cam) v Benin representative
First round games to be played over two legs on February 18-20 and March 4-6.

AFRICAN CUP-WINNERS CUP
Preliminary Round
Black Africa (Nam) v Bantu (Les)
AS Cimelta (Mad) v Stade Tamponnaise (RI)
Eleven Men in Flight (Swa) v Township Rollers (Bot)
Preliminary round matches to be played over two legs on January 21-23 and February 4-6.
First Round
Al Ahly (Egy, holders) v St George (Eth)
Olympic Beja (Tun) v Sahel SC (Niger)
Witbank Aces (SA) v Black Africa or Bantu
Zimbabwe representative v AS Cimelta or Stade Tamponnaise
Breweries (Ken) v Rayon Sports (Rwa)
Tanzania representative v Kampala City Council (Uga)
Zambia representative v Eleven Men in Flight or Township Rollers
BCC Lions (Nigeria) v AS Fonctionnaires de Bobo (BF)
Djoliba (Mali) v Nasr Athletique Hussien-Dey (Alg)
Guinea representative v Agaza Omnispot (Togo)
Cameroon representative v AS Aviacao (Ang)
DC Motema Pembe (Zai) v Anges de Fatima (CAR)
Benin representative v Sierra Leone representative
Mbilinga (Gab) v Renaissance (Chad)
LPRC Oilers (Lib) v AS Snim (Mauritania)
First round games to be played over two legs on February 18-20 and March 4-6.

CAF CUP
Preliminary Round
Linare (Les) v St Denis (RI)
Boavista Praia (CVI) v Sierra Leone representative
Preliminary round matches to be played over two legs on January 21-23 and February 4-6.
First Round
Nakivubo Villa (Uga) v AFC Leopards (Ken)
Momeni Pirates (Swa) v Zimbabwe representative
Gaborone or St Denis v Roan United (Zam)
Young Aricans (Tan) v Moroka Swallows (SA)
Coffee Marketing (Eth) v El Mourada (Sud)
Racing Club (BF) v US Chaouia (Alg)
Chad representative v Olympic FC (Niger)
AS Garde Nationale (Mauritania) v JS Kabylie (Alg)
AS Nianan de Koulikoro (Mali) v Delta FC (Gab)
Boavista Praia or Sierra Leone representative v Guinea representative
Gomido de Kpalime (Togo) v Unisport Bafang (Cam)
Stade Centrafricain (CAR) v Bendel Insurance (Nigeria)
Benin representative v Fulani (Lib)
Young Ones (Nam) v Primiero Maiso (Ang)
AS Bantous (Zai) v Mukura Victory (Rwa)
First round games to be played over two legs on February 18-20 and March 4-6.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP
Quarter-finals
Poland v Portugal
Spain v Greece
France v Russia
Italy v Czechoslovakia
Matches to be played, over two legs, on March 9 and 23.

Semi-finals
Poland or Portugal v Spain or Greece
France or Russia v Italy or Czechoslovakia
Matches to be played, over two legs, on April 6 and April 20.

EUROPEAN UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIP
Group 1: Northern Ireland, Germany.
Group 2: Rep. of Ireland, Holland, Sweden.
Group 3: Italy, Lithuania, Wales.
Group 4: Israel, Norway, Scotland.
Group 5: Latvia, England, Slovenia.
Matches to be played by November 30. Group winners to go into intermediary round. Finals to be staged in Greece.

1994-95 EUROPEAN U-16 YOUTH TOURNAMENT
Group 1: Luxembourg, France, Northern Ireland
Group 2: Sweden, Denmark, Republic of Ireland
Group 3: Finland, Scotland, Iceland
Group 4: Latvia, Spain, Croatia
Group 5: Czech Republic, Malta, Estonia
Group 6: Poland, Switzerland, Yugoslavia
Group 7: Moldova, Austra, Albania
Group 8: Slovakia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus
Group 9: Georgia, Armenia, Slovenia
Group 10: Israel, Ukraine, Germany
Group 11: Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway
Group 12: England, Greece, Romania
Group 13: Turkey, Holland, Byelorussia
Group 14: Wales, Bulgaria, Portugal
Group 15: Russia, Hungary, Italy
Matches to be played by March 11, 1995. Group winners join hosts Belgium in the finals.
Note: *Yugoslavia's entry depends on their ban from international soccer being lifted before May 31, 1994.*

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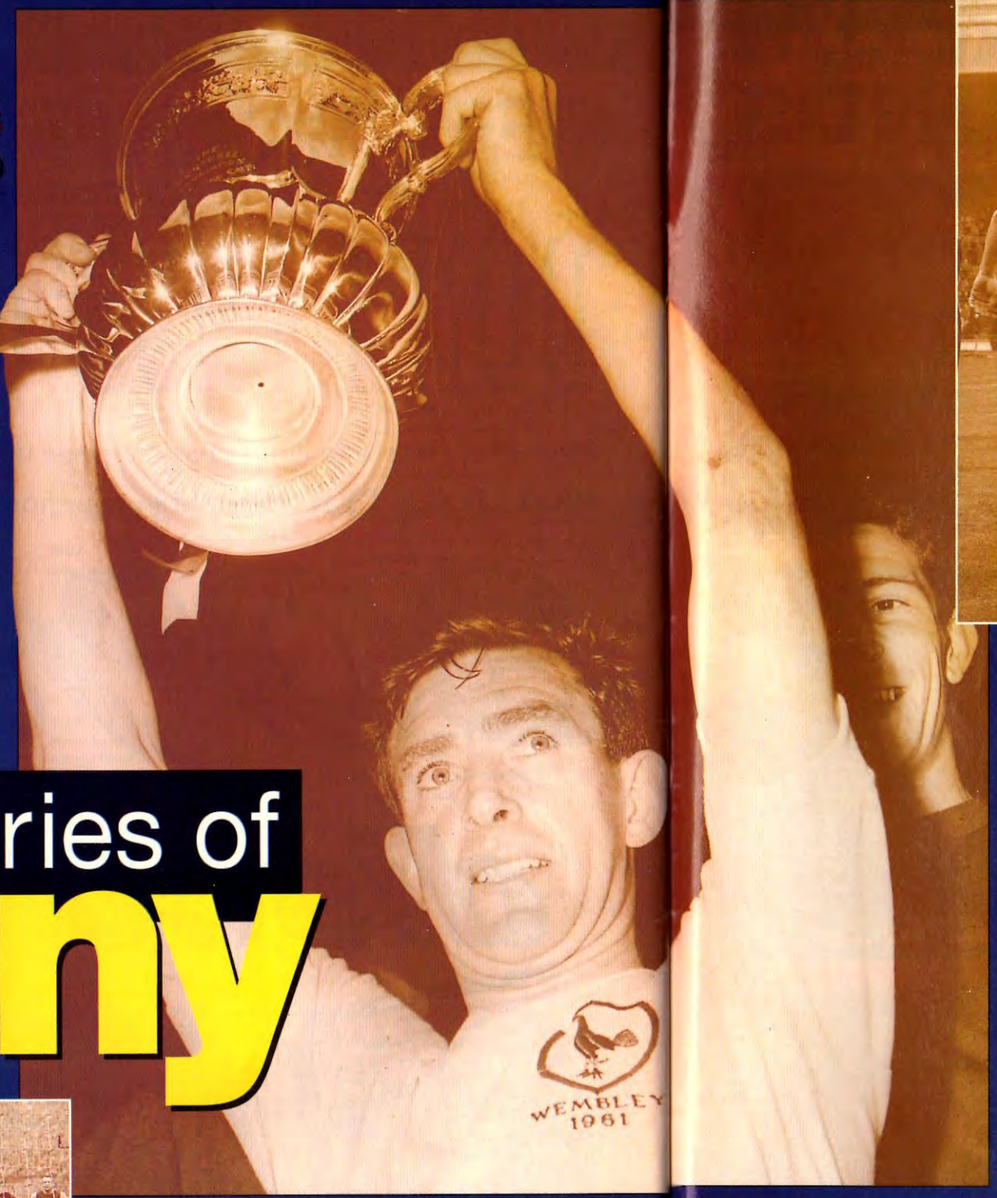
BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

Memories of Danny



Blanchflower at his best . . . with the FA Cup in 1961 (above), scoring Tottenham's third goal in the 1962 FA Cup Final against Burnley (left), and captaining Northern Ireland against England at Wembley in 1961 (above right).

MEMORIES of Danny Blanchflower. So many of them. The last of them being the saddest. He, Ken Jones, his old friend, cousin of that brave winger, Cliff, and the novelist Gordon Williams flew up to Glasgow for a pilot sports discussion. Ken, Gordon and I were pretty sure we wouldn't get a word in. Danny in full flow brooked no opposition.

But it was quite the reverse. What had happened to Danny? He was vague, distracted. He rambled, sometimes swore. Far from trying to get a world in edgeways, we found ourselves trying desperately to prop him up.

He told me afterwards, glumly, that a lump of wood had fallen on his head. That he'd been ailing ever since. But alas, the truth turned out to be that he, of all once coruscating people, was the victim of the cruel Alzheimer's disease. The man who died in December, at the age of 67,wasn't the Danny we had known, so articulate, funny, original, charming, sometimes maddening, always fluent.

How well I remember these pre-match meetings in the great, grey Tottenham car park before a game, back in the 1950s. Reg Drury, then with *Reynolds News*, and I would chat about the latest Sunday game we'd played for Chelsea Casuals. From where Danny stood, on his Olympian height, such clumsy activiites were scarcely visible to the naked eye. But he would smile and say, without a hint of irony, "It sounds so much more interesting than what we do!"

When, in 1958, shortly after he had captained Northern Ireland in the World Cup in Sweden, I had changed newspapers, he asked me, in the car park, why I'd left *The Observer* for *The Sunday Times*. "More money, for a start!" I said, and he replied, "Well, that's six good reasons, anyway!"

Before the World Cup, asked what tactics Ireland planned, he''d replied, in his whimsical way, "We're going to equalise before the other side have scored!"

In the event, the chances of that splendid Irish team managed by Danny's idol, the incomparable Peter Doherty, were torpedoed by the dreadful Munich air crash, the withdrawal from the game of Danny's gifted brother, Jackie, who has now survived him. As a centre-half, Jackie played in the modern manner, a natural inside-forward with the confidence, skill and intelligence to bring the ball out of defence.

A man who could safely be left, by Danny, to his own devices. But when he dropped out, and the full-back Willy Cunningham became emergency centre-half, Danny, the right-half, had to drop deeper to cover him, and much was lost to the attack.

As a player and undeniably a great one, Danny was essentially a triumph of mind over matter. He was not especially strong or particularly quick. Physically, that's to say. Mentally, he was as fast as lightning, saw what was happening in a flash, analysed playing situaitons with extraordinary insight and originality.

He was what scarcely exists now, a marvellous captain. An inspiration to his team, whether it be Spurs or Northern Ireland. And a man who, throughout his playing career, was obliged to suffer fools gladly.

Danny's origins were basic Belfast, where he'd go out in the streets as a boy and play forever, but when he was conscripted into the RAF, he found himself on a short course at St Andrew's University, in Scotland. And the mind expanded.

He was a naturally good and gifted writer. For me, the best of his work appeared not in *The Sunday Express* but in *The New Statesman*, when that weekly was so widely read and deeply respected. This I say, though he once took me brusquely to task, there. I had published my novel, *The Rise of Gerry Logan*, about a Scottish footballer, much of which was set in Italy. It was in 1963, and for many years to come, people inside and outside the game asked me endlessly on whom the player was based. Was it Denis Law? It must be Gerry Hitchens!

Well, I can admit, now, that the model was Danny himself (I needed someone exceptional); and Danny knew it. He gave the book its one unfavourable review in Britain.

"He has given him a dangerous pass," he wrote, "a hospital pass, and scuttled up into the Press box to hide."

Harsh words, and hardly fair, I felt, but even so, I admited the style in which they were written, just as I so greatly admitred his style on the field. And later, we were friends, again. For, in football, he did have the heart of the matter. Years later, upset when my schoolboy idol, Eddie Hapgood, was shamefully traduced in a writched book called *Arsenal From The Heart*, by that time server, ex-office boy and later "grand" executive, Bob Wall. Danny shared my views.

"Arsenal isn't Bob Wall," he said to me, at Chelsea in the press box. "It's Eddie Hapgood, and all the otherw who have played."

His partnership with Bill Nicholson, the right-half whom he succeeded at Spurs, and who later became his manager, was an odd one. Hard to think of two more different personalities. Danny so outgoing — on the surface, at least — and fluent, Bill so closed, cautious and monosyllabic.

Bill even dropped Danny once, in 1959, and made him play a while in the reserves.

Jimmy Anderson, the stop-gap manager Spurs bewilderingly installed before Bill, took the captaincy away from Danny in 1956.

He had dared, in an FA Cup semi-final against Manchester City, to move Maurice Norman, his big defender, up to centre-forward and the ploy had not worked.

Seven years later, in Rotterdam, where Spurs met Atletico Madrid in the Final of the Cup-winners Cup, it was Danny who picked up the pieces after Billy Nick's gloomy team talk, making Atletico's players sound like supermen. If Jones, the coloured Atletico right winger, could run, said Danny *inter alia*, then Spurs' own winger, Cliff Jones, could motor a bit, as well.

By the time he had finished, heads which had gone down had gone up. Spurs, even without the forceful left-half Dave Mackay, went out and won, 5-1.

Another memory. Being on a televised book programme with Danny and that eminent Spurs fan, the highly analytical philosopher, A.J. Freddie Ayer. "I succumb to his charm," Ayer told me, afterwards. Who didn't?

We were meant to be discussing my new book of short stories, specifically the football stories, but Danny went up, up and away and eventually was described in *The Observer* by that talented critic, Maurice Richardson, as "talking brilliantly" about the possibility of writing a football novel. I wasn't mentioned! Who could compete?

Yet there were strange episodes in Danny's career. When, in 1960, Jimmy Hill, still undervalued for his noble part in the campaign, set the footballers' union on a collision course with the League over the iniquitous maximum wage, he hoped Danny would inspire the troops to battle. But he didn't. He was strangely mute.

It was Hill, with no particularly great ambition for the role, who would occupy centre stage. And, eventually, win the battle.

"Danny's a great talker!" Wilbur Cush, that small, perambulating tree trunk of an Irish half-back, once said to me.

"Danny's a long playing record," said a journalist who wasn't quite convinced.

But so much of what Danny said made sense, so much of what he did was remarkable, so much of what he wrote was elegantly readable.

He was a man, take him for all in all.

We shall not look upon his like again.

To bye or not to bye?

WHY do the World Cup holders get an automatic bye to the subsequent finals? It makes no modern sense.

For many a decade, the Davis Cup for tennis had a Challenge Round. The previous winners were exempted till it, the actual Final, was played. A manifest absurdity, and it's a good many years ago since tennis abandoned it.

But the World Cup hasn't abandoned the practice, and it's high time it did.

True, history can repeat itself, as indeed it did in the 1990 World Cup Final, when once again, Germany played Argentina.

But four years are four years, and the pattern can change dramatically in that time. It is, I suppose, quite inevitable that the host country always be involved in the World Cup finals, but I see little or no logic in always giving free passage to the previous winners. FIFA should have a good hard look at the anomaly; and do something about it.

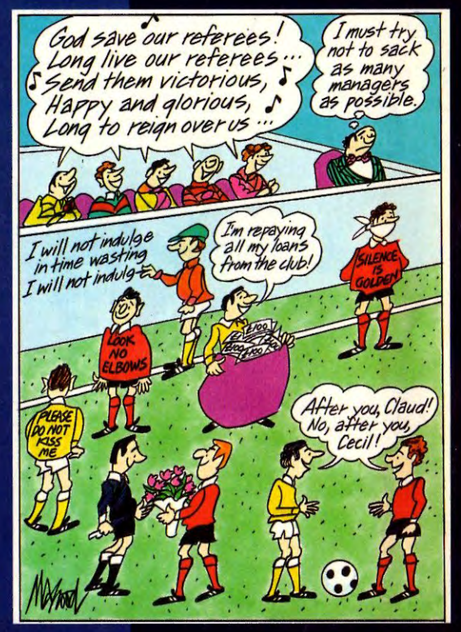
Birth rights

WHEN Billy Bingham, on the eve of the Northern Ireland v Republic match in Belfast, called some of the opposing players mercenaries, it was a blow beneath the belt.

But the historical fact is that qualification has always been a mess. When Italy won the 1934 World Cup they did it with three ex-Argentinian internationals, Monti, Orsi and Guaita.

"If they can die for Italy," thundered Vittorio Pozzo, the Italian boss, "they can play for Italy."

Ladislao Kubala played for three different countries. Joe Baker, a Scot, played for England because he was born, by chance, in Liverpool. I'd make one stipulation. Parents count. Grandparents don't.



A to Z OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

By SIMON INGLIS, author of The Football Grounds of Great Britain and The Football Grounds of Europe

FEYENOORD

Name: Feyenoord Stadion
Capacity: 56,128 (5,000 standing)
Opened: 27 March 1937, Feyenoord v Beerschot
Location: In a dockland area between the main Den Haag-Dordrecht railway line and the south bank of the Niuwe Maas waterway which divides Rotterdam. The original Feijenoord district is just up the road. Not the nicest part of town.

● It was rivalry with Amsterdam which impelled local businessmen to build the stadium everyone calls "De Kuip" — the Tub — in the 1930s. Sixty years later it is Amsterdam and Ajax's grandiose plans for a new national stadium which look likely to spur Feyenoord, at long last, into upgrading this splendidly dated and surprisingly unsophisticated monument in steel and glass.

The Tub is a two-tiered bowl on stilts, with a never-used perimeter track covered by "temporary" seating decks which haven't moved for decades. Cover is available on one side only of the upper tier. The rest is a stark legacy both of the "functionalist" school of architecture which the city embraced before the Second World War and Holland's hooligans — are they called Tub Thumpers locally? — whose activities forced the erection of ugly fences.

Lavish £30 million refurbishment plans have been drawn up to extend the roof all round and tart up the seating areas (ah yes, more of the ubiquitous Dutch "business seats"). Fortunately for Feyenoord, they only have a small area of standing to convert before Holland's August 1997 all-seater deadline. Fortunately also for design purists, the best feature of the stadium, the exposed steelwork, will survive. But if the hi-tech Stadion Amsterdam does get built according to plan, Feyenoord's days as an international venue may be numbered.

World Soccer rating: 7 (out of 10)

FRANKFURT

Name: Waldstadion (or Forest Stadium)
Capacity: 61,146 (30,000 seated)
Opened: May 24 1925, Frankfurt v Boca Juniors (Argentina)
Location: South of the River Main, just off the A3 autobahn, in the heart of Germany's largest municipal woodland and under the main flight-path into Frankfurt Airport.

● If Eintracht Frankfurt manage to win the Bundesliga this season the German FA's top brass won't have to go far to hand over the goodies. The Deutscher Fussballbund main offices are tucked away in trees just behind the Waldstadion, alongside the offices of several other German sporting bodies. If you delve further into the woods you're sure of a big surprise: a magnificent lido, velodrome, open air ice rink, tennis courts, golf course and acres of training pitches. In fact the Waldstadion is probably one of the least attractive features of this arboreal Sportpark, once the pride of the Weimar Republic.

Two featureless stands (built for the 1974 World Cup, one of them replacing a real neo-classical gem from 1925) flank the inevitable running track. Both terraced ends are open. In other words, a typical German stadium with typical German problems. They have to seat and cover both ends but the local municipality is mighty short of marks.

World Soccer rating: 6 (out of 10)

FIORENTINA

Name: Stadio Comunale "Artemio Franchi" (but originally "Giovanni Berta", a Florentine Fascist leader in the 1930s)
Capacity: 47,495 (all-seated)
Opened: September 1932
Location: Cross the Ponte Vecchia from the south, turn right along the River Arno, left after the Uffizi, cross the Piazza di Santa Croce where the original medieval game of Calcio Fiorentina was played, then facing towards the hills of Fiesole walk for 20 minutes north-east to the Campo di Marte.

● It may be Serie B fare at the Comunale this season but if Italy's Fascists can make a comeback so can Fiorentina. Theirs is one of the most influential stadium designs to have emerged from the Fascist period. Although nowadays it is not always easy to imagine why Pier Luigi Nervi's pioneering concept aroused so much interest during the 1934 World Cup, with the sun reflected on the tall, slender Marathon Tower, crowds filling the winding stairways and the verdant Tuscan hills shimmering in the distance, it is certainly not hard to see why Roberto Baggio left his heart here.

Nervi's original and much copied concrete cantilevered roof lost its verve when it was awkwardly extended in the late 1960s, but a massive £30 million refurbishment for Italia '90 has given the old D-shaped stadium and tower a sparkling new lease of life. Sightlines in the corners, where the original 200-metre running track elongated the stand side, and on the lower rows are poor (as they were before 1990), but at least without the running track the sides are now closer to the pitch.

As official historic monuments go the Comunale may not drag many tourists away from the Uffizi, but design buffs are delighted to see Nervi's quirky "modernist" stadium in such fine fettle.

World Soccer rating: 7 (out of 10)

FOXBORO

Name: Foxboro Stadium
Capacity: 61,114 (all-seated)
Opened: 1971 as the Schaefer Stadium, renamed Sullivan Stadium in 1983, now just plain Foxboro (but who took the *ugh* out of Foxborough?)
Location: Officially referred to as in the "suburbs" of Boston, but by our standards in the middle of a parking lot, Nowheresville, 25 miles south of the city, in a region where every other town and village speaks of England (Mansfield, Norfolk and Suffolk, even Islington are nearby).

● Already familiar to Old England Patriots as the venue for England's 2-0 humiliation against the US last summer, the Foxboro home of the New England Patriots gridiron team is scheduled to become New Lansdowne Road when the Irish team arrive for the 1994 World Cup. The last time Jack Charlton's boys were here a crowd of 54,743 mainly Irish Bostonians turned up — the second largest attendance at a professional soccer international in the States. The stadium itself has a single curved tier on the main side, with a a massive three-tier open stand opposite and much smaller open stands behind each "end zone". But the grass is the real Kentucky Blue stuff and the locals love of the game is genuine.

World Soccer rating: 7 (out of 10)

NEXT MONTH IN

WORLD SOCCER

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Part I of the World Cup countdown

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Club Focus
Cremonese

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Albertini in action.

The stadium and...

Close up and...

The stadium again.

Ielpo's frown.

What legs!

The act of supporting.

Savicevic's stare.

100% Milan.

Supporter in disguise.

A view of the stadium.

Committed supporter.

A.C. MILAN:

SOCCER IS LIFE.

The flag of victory.

Lady supporter.

The red and the black.

Shopping the San Siro way.

That's imaginative!

Come on Milan!

Red and black devil.

Rossi astonished.

Albertini's boot.

lotto
Italian Sports Design